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1903
RE MARTYR

THE
REIGN
OF
GEORGE VI.

THE PREFACE.

A Preface, like a Maſter of the Ceremonies, introduces two Strangers to an interview, and upon occaſions of this nature, the book-ſeller uſually officiates as a Sir Clement Cotterel to the reader.——If we were to go on with our ſimiles, we ſhould compare an author, to a convict at the place of execution, for let him have talked never ſo much, he has ſtill a laſt word to ſay to the public.

THE
REIGN
OF
GEORGE VI.

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MDCCLXIII.

With regard to the tendency of the following hiſtory, as it is taken up at a what's-to-come period, and begun at an æra that will not begin theſe hundred years, it may be neceſſary to ſay a few words, whether critical or explanatory, whimſical or elaborate, ſhall be entirely ſubmitted to the determination of the reader.——

The kingdom of Great-Britain was divided into two powerful parties, as we are informed by our annals, when the great Doctor Swift, took it into his head to write the hiſtory of Captain Lemuel Gulliver——the political tendency of that celebrated performance is too generally known to require any comment in this place.—The Dean, with

with the greateſt concern, had long ſeen the Diſtractions of the ſtate, and knew, that it would be utterly impoſſible in a direct chain of reaſoning, to combat with the force of popular opinion——or to contend with thoſe obſtinate prejudices which in a courſe of ill-judged education are too often and too fatally imbibed.——

Senſible of this ineffectuality, that great man ſet about an undertaking, which would produce all the conſequences he deſired, without ſeeming to labour for any, and fully expoſe the principles of faction, without appearing the leaſt ſolicitous to detect them at all.——He wrote——he publiſhed——and ſucceeded, and the work is at this day one of the moſt

maſterly pieces of its kind in any language, and held in the higheſt eſtimation, by the moſt ſenſible and judicious part of the kingdom.—

The modeſty which is ever the companion of true merit, would by no means admit our author to think of a parallel between this hiſtory and the travels of Captain Gulliver.—— Even to ſay he does not, is a ſort of preſumption, as it is tacitly acknowledging the poſſibility of ſuch a compariſon.—But the very ſame modeſty induces him to hope, that in the courſe of the following ſheets, the reader will not ſit down to an entertainment utterly contemptible, for then it would be an unpardonable piece of ill-breeding to think of ſetting it be-

fore

fore a gueſt.——The generality of modern writers have a mighty trick of ſaying——to be ſure, they themſelves are ſenſible the performance is trivial——poor——wants merit, and all that;——but why, if they are ſenſible their productions are ſo very deſpicable, do they inſolently think of offering them to the public?——Why do they think of printing theſe very poor, trivial, and contemptible performances?——Why——why——Becauſe, becauſe, they neither think them poor, trivial, nor contemptible——their very humility is nothing but an aggravation of their arrogance, for the greateſt vanity a man was ever guilty of, was to ſay, he had no vanity at all.

In the hiſtory of George the ſixth, we find few or none of thoſe epiſodes, or particular circumſtances that might happen among the great men of his time; the hiſtorian has confined himſelf to the actions of the Prince alone. And in the account of the exploit, little more than names any principal Commander, directing his whole attention to the conduct of the King.——He paints him reſolute, wiſe, and magnanimous at home, ——vigilant, intrepid, and fortunate abroad,—— ſucceſsful againſt domeſtic factions,——and victorious over foreign enemies,——a promoter of arts and ſciences,——an encourager of religion and virtue,——and in ſhort, draws him a very great King, and

and a truly good man. We ſhall not offer ſo poor a compliment to the reader—as to mention any perſonage of the preſent age of Engliſh growth, who deſerves the character given to the Hero of the future; but we ſhall very much pity his underſtanding, if he meets with any difficulty in finding him out.

In the courſe of the following ſheets, the reader's own reflection muſt frequently aſſiſt him in the elucidation of particular circumſtances,—for in performances of this nature, it is totally impoſſible to be always as clear as a perſon could wiſh, —— there are ſuch things as an Attorney, and Sollicitor General, a Court of King's Bench, and pains and penalties,

——it might be rather dangerous for the author to write with more perſpicuity upon ſome points —— but there is no law hitherto eſtabliſhed againſt thinking,——ſo that while he is ſecure from the acquaintance of a meſſenger——our author in any paſſage which may carry the appearance of obſcure, gives the reader leave to think juſt what he pleaſes of the relation.

The great conteſt that has long ſubſiſted between two powerful factions, affords the faireſt opportunity for a ſatyrical writer to exert himſelf, and to laſh any error that may be found in the principles of either, even while he writes with a laudable view of reconciling both. —— Our hiſtorians,

hiſtorian, in the gloomy portrait which he draws of the nation, at the beginning of his work, alludes very ſtrongly to a late dangerous criſis, when the kingdom was torn with party feuds and animoſities, and when ſome of the greateſt people riſqued their own properties without any concern, to enjoy the malevolent ſatisfaction of injuring other people. —— The character of the future Duke of Bedford, will eaſily lead us to think of a nobleman of the preſent times, who has headed an oppoſition to the government of his King; and the parliamentary proceedings in the reign of George the ſixth, may be conſidered as a well turned compliment to the legiſlature of George the third.

In

In the perusal of the ensuing history, the author has dwelt with a particular satisfaction on the encouragement given to men of genius, and the noble provisions which his Hero allowed for cultivating the politer arts and sciences, the academy which he established for that purpose, endears the Monarch imperceptibly to the reader of taste, and was not injudiciously introduced to enhance the character of George, and to inspire an emulation of the most generous kind, in the bosom of his predecessors.——Learning indeed, notwithstanding the eulogium which has been paid to some great names, has not found a sufficient encouragement hitherto in England; and it is rather

rather ſurpriſing, that every nation in Europe ſhould have academies for promoting it but our own.

Not to take up the reader's time, however with reflections, which in the peruſal of the following ſheets muſt naturally occur to himſelf; it will be only neceſſary to obſerve further, that the author, by making his Hero conquer all France, and eſtabliſhing him in poſſeſſion of that kingdom, ſeems to hint, that our late treaty of peace, was not *altogether* ſo advantageous as miniſterial writers would have us think it; and that the moderation which we ſhowed upon that occaſion, was *rather* a little ill-timed. Upon the whole, it is preſumed, that the hiſtory of George

George the ſixth, will merit the approbation of the candid; and that the reader of ſenſe, will himſelf comment upon paſſages that would not be ſo ſafe for our author to explain, and make proper allowances from the nature of the ſubject, for any ſeeming heavineſs of ſtile, which accidentally ariſes in the narrative.

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INTRODUCTION.

INTRODUCTION.

CONTAINING

A REVIEW

OF THE

BRITISH HISTORY.

ALTHOUGH the period in our hiſtory, of which theſe ſheets contain an account is one of the moſt ſingular and remarkable, and more detached from the general arrangement of our annals than perhaps any other reign; yet it is neceſſary to ſketch the outlines of the preceding times, that the reader may comprehend the whole picture at once in his imagination, without the pain of continued recollection.

The ſplendor of the Engliſh nation ought to take its date from the civil wars in the ſeventeenth century, which

at the ſame time that they ruined individuals, and threw the kingdom into a temporary ſtate of confuſion, laid the foundation for that immenſe fabric which has ſince been erected (a). It has been juſtly remarked, that nations diſplay their internal reſources more, and produce great men more abundantly after a civil war, than at any other period; the ob-

(a) Here our hiſtorian convinces us of his judgement as well as his reading. An author leſs accurate would have ſuppoſed, that Queen Elizabeth's reign might rather be termed the æra from which the preſent ſplendor of our nation (if we may uſe the term preſent to a period which does not commence theſe 137 years) is derived, but he has ſenſibly conſidered, that the foundation laid by Queen Elizabeth was ſapped by Oliver Cromwell, and that the preſent conſtitution is a phœnix of another colour from that which expired in the ſeventeenth century, and that we are naturally to look upon the civil wars in Oliver's time as the ſource from which our greatneſs at this time has proceeded; the different changes in government ſince being nothing more than the conſequences of theſe commotions.

ſervation

ſervation is drawn from hiſtory, and needs no philoſophical enquiries to eſtabliſh it. But moſt certainly the Engliſh nation made thoſe prodigious acquiſitions of trade, within half a century after the death of Cromwell, that prepared the way for ſtill greater increaſe. During the ſupine reigns of Charles II. and James II. we were gaining on our neighbours. (b).

(b) Here our author gives a proof of his politeneſs, as in the laſt note he did of his underſtanding. "During the ſupine reigns of Charles and James the IId. (ſays he) we were gaining on our neighbours." Others would have inſolently told a reader what, and how, we were gaining upon our neighbours; but our author genteely ſuppoſes every body has ſenſe enough to find that out, and therefore does not tell us a ſingle word of the matter. The hiſtorian too has happily introduced the completeſt oppoſition of words and ideas that could poſſibly have been hit upon. In the *ſupine* reigns we were *gaining* upon our neighbours; that is, we were doing ſomething, when, in reality, we were

The revolution threw us into a new ſcene of action, and the wars we carried on on the continent, at the ſame time that they ſecured the independency of Europe, opened new channels for our trade to flow in: but the moſt remarkable event of King William's reign, was the beginning of a public debt, which has ſince been attended with ſuch wonderful conſequences (c).

The

were doing nothing at all. The critics may, in all probability, object to this paſſage in the text, but we would have theſe gentlemen remember what Mr. Pope ſays,

" Great wits may ſometimes glorioufly offend,
" And aim at faults the critics dare not mend;
" From vulgar bounds with brave diſorder part,
" And ſnatch a grace beyond the reach of art.

(c) The hiſtorian now gives us a ſpecimen of his prudence; he neither tells us whether the conſequences have been good or bad which attended the national debt, but leaves it, to avoid diſagreeable reflections, upon the reader to determine. In the courſe of theſe three annotations, the reader

The reign of Queen Anne, was a period in which the Engliſh arms made a reſpectable figure in Europe during the continuance of the war, and her councils, like thoſe of a ſucceeding reign, a very pitiful one at the end; our trade ſtill increaſed, and with it, our public debt. The greateſt part of the reigns of the two firſt Georges contained little remarkable. In reading their hiſtories we meet with none of thoſe actions that raiſe and elevate the ſoul, and make us wonder at the power that executed them.

der will pleaſe to obſerve how modeſtly our author has convinced us of his abilities: in the firſt he has proved his judgement; in the ſecond his politeneſs; and in the third his diſcretion; yet never once made a mention of his own abilities, but left it to us to form our opinion from his works. However meritorious he may be in this reſpect, he is certainly guilty of one great deviation from the moderns, for they would have talked about their merit for a twelvemonth, and we might have required a whole century before we found it out.

The period of our hiſtory that is graced with the name of George III. is more ſplendid; it forms a remarkable æra in the annals of Europe; not from the number of great geniuſes that adorned his court, but from the multitude of virtues which conſtituted the character of a ſovereign to a happy people; yet even ſo great an aſſemblage of excellencies was not attended with a fortunate influence over the manners of his court; the great men of thoſe days ſerved but as a foil to ſet off the luſtre of royal virtues! indeed few endeavoured to arrive at that ſummit of virtue which they conſidered impoſſible to attain, and therefore prudently beheld the merit without any wiſh of imitation.

In the reign of George IV. were many remarkable events, but the moſt material occurrence, which continued throughout that period, was the amazing increaſe of the national debt.

George

George V. was a wiſe and virtuous prince, but the kingdom ſuffered from the want of capacity in his miniſters, and felt a very ſevere ſhock in the conqueſt of Holland. He came to the crown in one of the moſt critical moments that it is poſſible one Prince can ſucceed another; his kingdom was in the greateſt confuſion; occaſioned by a long and unfortunate war with Ruſſia. In vain had his predeceſſors endeavoured at an immenſe expence to prevent the fatal aggrandizement of that empire; in vain had the parliament granted every neceſſary ſupply to prevent the northern kingdoms from being ſwallowed into one prodigious monarchy; every effort which the fifth grand alliance Europe had ſeen, could make, was ineffectual: Sweden and Denmark, notwithſtanding their being ſo powerfully aſſiſted, were unable to defend themſelves; every thing ſubmitted to the rapidity of Peter's arms, and the

firſt maritime power in the world, who had ſo long poſſeſſed the dominion of the ſea, ſaw its fleets beaten, and its coaſts inſulted. The miniſtry was unſettled; and the violent agitation of the whole kingdom owing to the ſad ſtate of the public funds, on the whole, conſpired to form one of thoſe critical ſituations which required great judgement and abilities in the Prince, and a unanimous concurrence of his parliament, to guide the helm with ſucceſs.

The king in part effected it; but during his long reign, the nation was far from being in a flouriſhing ſituation, and the diſmal proſpect of national bankruptcy, which the moſt penetrating politicians clearly foreſaw muſt ſoon come to paſs, caſt a general damp on the ſpirits of the people, which conſequently was attended with a certain languor in the adminiſtration that foretold ſome terrible criſis was at hand. In the midſt of this

this general deſpondency the King died, and was ſucceeded by George VI. the hiſtory of whoſe reign is the ſubject of the following ſheets; a period the moſt remarkable, and abounding in the moſt aſtoniſhing events, that ever have been recorded in modern hiſtory.

THE REIGN OF GEORGE VI.

CHAP. I.

First acts of this Prince's reign.—National debt.—State of Europe.

THE very first acts of this Prince's reign (a) were such as caught the attention of all Europe; and indicated not only a soaring genius, but a judgement far beyond his years. The nation had formed the

(a) He ascended the throne the 16th of February 1900.

moſt ardent hopes of their young Sovereign; in his education and very youth he had given ſigns of what was one day to be expected of him; and all ranks of people turned their weary eyes on him, as their pilot through that ſea of troubles which it was too evident was riſing to overwhelm them. The King, in all his actions, ſhowed himſelf worthy of their confidence. His father's miniſtry was compoſed of a ſet of men, who, though they did not want abilities, were not ſuch as he choſe to employ; but his inclinations in this point could not be fully indulged, from ſeveral circumſtances. The Duke of Bedford, Lord High Treaſurer, had ſuch prodigious intereſt in the parliament, owing more to his immenſe riches than his perſonal merit, that his removal would have been dangerous, ſo he continued him in his poſt till a more favourable opportunity ſhould offer itſelf. The Duke of Northumberland was removed from being Preſi-

preſident of the council, and was ſucceeded by the Earl of Surry. The Duke of Marlborough was made Secretary of State for the ſouthern department, and the Marquis of Kildare for the northern; Lord Sands and Mr. Stevens, retiring with penſions. The Duke of Suffolk, Lord Privy-Seal, in the room of the Duke of St. Alban's, and the Duke of Grafton firſt Lord of the Admiralty, which then happened to be vacant by the death of the Duke of Athol. Theſe were the principal alterations which were made in great offices of ſtate (b).

But the above perſonages were not poſſeſſed of equal authority, or entruſted with the ſame confidence by the king. It was at firſt foreſeen that the principal ſhare of power would reſt in the Duke of Suffolk, who poſſeſſed his Majeſty's ear more than any of his other ſervants,

(b) Theſe changes took place in February and the beginning of March.

and

and was deſigned to ſucceed the Duke of Bedford as ſoon as he could be removed with ſafety. This young nobleman was of a diſpoſition congenial with his Sovereign's: he had improved his mind by reading the moſt celebrated authors, and poſſeſſed that penetrating genius, which eaſily comprehends, and fully attains, the objects of its ſtudy. He had travelled through the principal courts of Europe, and underſtood their different intereſts and connections, with abundance of eaſe and perſpicuity. He poſſeſſed the confidence and friendſhip of the king, who loved him; but his promotion gave offence to many, and cauſed great envy, as he was originally of a mean family, and, beſides, was ſometimes apt to behave rather haughtily to his ſuperiors.

The ceremony of the late King's burial was no ſooner over, and the miniſtry ſettled for the preſent, than writs were iſſued for the meeting of a new parliament;

ment; which aſſembled (c) with the higheſt opinion of their new Sovereign deeply impreſſed on their minds, and a unanimity of deſign to be expeditious in every public buſineſs that ſhould come under their conſideration: it would be tedious to the reader, and is below the dignity of hiſtory, to enter minutely into the debates of the two houſes, and to deſcribe the numberleſs little circumſtances that attend the inferior motions of the legiſlature; theſe matters are proper for the annals of the times; but it is our buſineſs to exhibit only thoſe out-lines, and ſtronger ſtrokes of colouring, that characteriſe the manners of the age, and give the boldeſt ideas of the hiſtory of the period.

The firſt affair of conſequence that came before them was the civil liſt. There was a debt contracted on it of above

(c) 13th of April, 1900.

five

five hundred thouſand pounds, this was paid off; and with a liberality boundleſs, and, perhaps, in its conſequences, dangerous, they augmented that branch of the grants half a million yearly; ſo that the civil liſt was now two millions a year: a prodigious ſum! increaſed by degrees for near four centuries: but what made this act of generoſity imprudent to the higheſt degree, was their ſettling it for life; it is true, their opinion of their new Sovereign was not groundleſs, but dangerous precedents ought never to be eſtabliſhed. Nothing was of greater importance than their debates on the public debt: the amount of it was aſtoniſhing; although the fatal year thirty-four (d) had ſpunged eighty millions of it, it was now above two hundred and ten millions, the intereſt of which enormous ſum alone amounted to eight millions five hundred

(d) 1834.

thouſand

thouſand pounds; and as the principal was every year increaſing to pay off the intereſt; it was evident that it muſt very ſoon come to a ſpunge. To prevent the dreadful conſquences ſuch an event muſt be attended with, the parliament laid a tax of ten per cent on ſtock, for one year: but this was only a temporary expedient, and ruined numbers whoſe property in the public funds was fluctuating. They voted five hundred thouſand pounds to be expended in repairing the navy and building new ſhips; a ſervice moſt neceſſary and advantageous, for the Ruſſian fleet threatened that of Britain with utter deſtruction in caſe of a new war, which it was feared was not far off; for the truce which had been ſigned was almoſt expired, without having as yet produced its deſired effect, a laſting peace. The grants on the whole amounted to fourteen millions; a ſum which would have aſtoniſhed all the world had we not been in poſſeſſion of ſuch a flouriſhing commerce;

but

but it was a time of peace, and had we been engaged in an expenſive war, we could have added very little to our income. But it will be neceſſary to preſent the reader with a view of the ſtate of Europe at the time this Monarch came to the crown.

The nations that formed what we call the north having been overturned by the immenſe power of the Ruſſians, made one vaſt monarchy, which comprehended Moſcovy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Lithuania, now called the empire of Ruſſia. Peter the IVth. was the Monarch that ſwayed the imperial ſceptre; a Prince whoſe martial feats were hardly ever exceeded, if we conſider his barbarous courage and ſucceſsful temerity; the acquiſitions he had made were the effects of mere perſonal courage in himſelf, that excited an ardour in his troops, and not the conſequence of policy or deſign; he was an indifferent ſtateſman, and a

ſavage

ſavage man. No ſooner were his own and his predeceſſors arms ſucceſsful in the attacks which they made on their neighbours, than he turned all his efforts on raiſing a maritime power ſuperior to that of Britain: for above eleven years all the ports of the Baltic were filled with preparations, and in the year 1897 Peter ſaw himſelf in poſſeſſion of a naval force of two hundred men of war of the line, beſides an innumerable number of frigates and ſmaller veſſels; the greater part of this prodigious fleet was manned; the amazing trade of his extenſive dominions produced him ſeamen in abundance; in a word, he was ſuperior to England by ſea, and the Britiſh coaſts were open to his invaſions, when a truce was patched up between the two nations.

The marriage which had transferred the dominions of the houſe of Auſtria to that of Pruſſia, and with them the imperial

perial title, ſeemed to have extinguiſhed that generous bravery, and political reputation which the kings of Pruſſia had enjoyed for ſo many centuries. The Emperor Frederic IX. was in every reſpect a weak Prince; he was governed by his Queen; and ſhe by the intriguing Count Buckburg, Prime Miniſter, a man of abilities, but who was ſuſpected of holding a correſpondence with his maſter's enemies. The Prince of Baden had gained great reputation in the laſt war with France; and by his victories had enabled Frederic to conclude an advantageous peace with that kingdom; but being Buckburg's [illegible]y had lately been diſgraced, and was entered into the Engliſh ſervice, the late King receiving him with many marks of ſatisfaction.

Charles the Xth ſat this time on the throne of France: he had the reputation of being a moſt cunning and political prince; was brave, and had ſome ſucceſs

ſucceſs at the head of his army againſt the Imperialiſts. He had juſt entered into a cloſe alliance with Ruſſia: had the phantom of a balance of power been the foible of theſe days, ſuch an alliance would have alarmed all Europe; but it had no other effect than making the King of Great Britain very jealous of his neighbour. Spain was in profound peace, excepting a temporary diſturbance, which aroſe from a third rebellion of the Portugueſe, but it was quelled with very little trouble; and the conquered nation ſaw not the leaſt hopes of regaining their independence.

The peace of Italy was almoſt at an end: the preparations that were making by the two Kings of Venice and Sicily prognoſticated the renewal of their quarrel. The patrimony of St. Peter which had ſo long been wreſted from the church, was again likely to be the ſcene of devaſtation. It was ſuppoſed that Venice would

would have the assistance of France, who has always found her account in intermeddling with the affairs of Italy. Such was the situation of affairs in Europe at the time George VI. came to the crown.

CHAP. II.

War with Russia.—Battle.—Intrepidity of the King.—Transactions in parliament.—Invasion.—Battle of Wetherby.—Naval engagement.—

AS there were but a few months of the truce with Russia unexpired, the King hastened the preparations for war with redoubled vigour. He had many obstacles to overcome, but the greatest was the want of money; the national debt was a bottomless gulf that swallowed up every thing. The navy was much behind hand in arrears, and many little mutinies had been raised by the sailors for the want of their pay, but at last, after

after a thouſand difficulties a formidable fleet was fitted out at the ports of Harwich, Hull, and Edinburgh; it conſiſted of fifty-five ſail of the line, and two and twenty frigates. The Ruſſians were later in their preparations; ſo that when the truce was expired, which was the 8th of September, their fleet was not ready to ſail. The command of the Britiſh ſquadron was given to the Duke of Grafton, the firſt Lord of the Admiralty, Admiral Philips and Sir Charles Montague commanded the rear and van diviſions under him. It is impoſſible to expreſs the conſternation of all ranks of people on the ſailing of this fleet; the fate of the war depended not only on its ſucceſs in the action, but on its being able to keep the enemy within the Sound. Thirty thouſand Ruſſians were embarked on board their ſquadron, which conſiſted of ſeventy ſail of the line, beſides frigates and a large fleet of tranſports, as they deſigned to attempt an invaſion: their land

land-forces were commanded by the Marſhal Schmettau, and the fleet by the Prince of Philigroff; their ſuperiority was formidable, not only in number of ſhips but they were in general larger than the Engliſh; and their ſailors had former ſucceſſes imprinted in their minds. The Duke of Grafton having collected the Britiſh ſquadrons ſet ſail with a fair wind for the Baltic, but the third day he was blown by a ſtorm on the coaſt of Holland; unfortunately the enemy's fleet was out of the Sound before the wind changed, and the ſame ſtorm brought them in ſight of the Britiſh fleet. It blew very hard when the engagement began (e), which was about four in the afternoon, with great fury. The Duke and the Prince both exerted themſelves with great vigour, and fought with the moſt heroic bravery. The Royal George of 100 guns the Engliſh Admi-

(e) November 3.

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ral's ſhip, was diſabled by three Ruſſian men of war, each of 80 guns. About ſix the Duke ſhifted his flag to the Blenheim, and in half an hour after the Royal George ſunk. The Ruſſian Admiral ſhifted his flag three times before the morning; for the battle laſted all night with the utmoſt fury. Sir Charles Montague was killed in the beginning of the engagement; and at laſt the Duke himſelf was wounded, and carried under deck; Philips continued the action with the greateſt bravery, and conduct and had it pleaſed God that the wind had been leſs violent, he would, in all probability, have been the conqueror; but the ſtorm increaſing, the two fleets were obliged to ſeparate. The Ruſſians loſs was very conſiderable, their Vice Admiral was killed, they had three ſhips taken, one ſunk, and two blown up; with about 7000 men killed and wounded. The loſs of the Engliſh was much

leſs in number, but they had ſeveral ſhips quite diſabled.

The day after this fatal engagement the Britiſh fleet kept in ſight of the Ruſſians, but without having it in their power to attack them; they were too much weakened by their loſs; and the enemy making ſome motions which indicated a deſign to renew the engagement, Philips thought it moſt for the king's ſervice to retire into port and refit.

The King was at the council when the news of the action was brought him; he was undiſmayed, and replied "The Lord's will be done;" but it was a clap of thunder to every mortal beſides. It was every moment expected that the Ruſſian General would make a deſcent; the whole nation was in the utmoſt confuſion; a ſudden run upon the Bank was near occaſioning a ſtop, and the ſtocks

ſtocks, which bore four per cent. fell down to thirty five. In this critical moment all eyes were turned on the King, as the only pilot in ſo terrible a ſtorm: it was impoſſible to be guided by a better; and had not Britain poſſeſſed a Sovereign of ſuch ſingular intrepidity and prudence, ſhe would have ſeen her laſt days. His Majeſty, when he found the turn affairs were like to take, prudently ventured to ſend an order to the Bank to ſtop payment till the kingdom was more ſecure, and, at the ſame time, iſſued out a proclamation, aſſuring his ſubjects that this was but a temporary meaſure, till the affairs of the nation would permit of more regularity. He immediately aſſembled the parliament by proclamation, and went himſelf to the Admiralty, where he ſat three hours dictating orders; diſpatches were ſent to every port in England, to haſten the equipment of a new fleet; troops were marching from all parts to the capital; in

ſhort, this young Monarch was, at this critical moment, the very life and ſoul of the ſtate; he managed every thing himſelf, and almoſt without aſſiſtance; for his miniſtry and the council were ſo divided in their opinions and debates, that he put very little faith in any of them. In the midſt of this ſcene of confuſion, advice was brought, that the Ruſſians, to the amount of 25000 men, had landed on the coaſt of Durham, and their fleet ſoon after diſappeared, it was ſuppoſed, in order to convoy a ſecond embarkation.

The affairs of Britain were now arrived at a moſt dangerous criſis, more terrible in appearance than any ſhe had ever ſeen; and many circumſtances combined to render her ſtate really dreadful. The army was weak, and ill paid, the formidable naval power of the Ruſſians having obliged the adminiſtration to turn all their efforts towards the fleet.

fleet. The general deſpondence which prevailed throughout the nation, upon account of the debt increaſed the ſhades of this ſad picture. The riches of individuals were now found to be of but little avail to the good of the ſtate, and while we enjoyed a more extenſive trade than ever, the nation was upon the brink of ruin. The Ruſſians threw all their force into their royal navy, ſo that our commerce had ſuffered very little from privateers.

The parliament being aſſembled in the greateſt haſte and confuſion, the King went to the houſe, and, in a ſenſible and nervous ſpeech, laid before them the dangerous ſituation of the nation, painted to them, in the ſtrongeſt colours, the abſolute neceſſity for ſome vigorous meaſures to preſerve them from their impending ruin. He informed them the enemy was landed, and on the march to York; that the only de-

fence they had now to truſt to was the army, which was itſelf weak, and diſcontented for want of pay; that the late misfortune at ſea muſt be ſpeedily repaired. In ſhort, that the urgency of the times required every moment to be made uſe of. He told them, that money was wanted for a variety of uſes, and that inſtantly——that the time was too ſhort to raiſe it; and their credit to weak to borrow it—that, as circumſtances were thus ſituated, he ſaw no expedient but their enabling him to make uſe of the money in the hands of the Bank-truſtees, which was deſigned for the intereſt of the public debts, for more public and immediate neceſſities.

George made little doubt but that the parliament would readily come into any meaſures, at ſo critical a juncture, for the good of their country; but in this he was fatally miſtaken. Peter had conveyed immenſe ſums into England, and had

had moſt politically diſtributed them to the moſt advantageous purpoſes; he had ſecured a large party, and this with the influence of the Duke of Bedford, (for that nobleman was againſt the court in every debate, owing to his being debarred of that ſhare of power uſually given to a Lord High-Treaſurer,) obſtructed every meaſure propoſed for coming to ſome ſpeedy reſolutions. At laſt, after the greateſt heats, and the warmeſt debates ever known, it was determined to reject the king's propoſal, and addreſs him to remove the Duke of Suffolk from his councils and ſervice, who they apprehended was the adviſer of thoſe meaſures.

The King's indignation at receiving this addreſs is not to be expreſſed; he had expected the moſt hearty concurrence in every national meaſure he could have propoſed; but when he found how much he was miſtaken, he broke out-

into a violent exclamation againſt his enemies in the parliament, and flew in a violent paſſion to the houſe; he turned the Speaker out of the chair, and, ſeating himſelf in it, "I flattered myſelf," ſaid he, "that a Britiſh p——— would have acted on Britiſh principles; but, to your great diſhonour, I find myſelf miſtaken: a powerful enemy is landed, and on the march: that time which you would waſte in ſenſeleſs diſputes, is too precious for me to follow ſo pernicious an example: I ſhall place myſelf at the head of my troops, and act for the honour and good of my country: but let thoſe traitors, that dare form machinations againſt the public peace, dread the indignation of an injured and enraged Sovereign." He had no ſooner thundered out theſe words than he left the houſe, with very viſible marks of anger.

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As none knew the King's intentions, all were terrified; thoſe who had ſo violently oppoſed his former propoſal, dreaded his diſcovering their guilt, and were diſmayed; they now offered to addreſs his Majeſty to take the ſtate under his protection: this reſolution was quickly agreed to; but before it could be concluded the houſe was alarmed with a violent mob, who had broke into the anti-chambers, and threatened deſtruction to every man who ſhould oppoſe the King's will. Terror now ſat in every countenance. Nothing leſs than immediate ruin was the object of every one's fears. Without much altercation, however, they haſtily drew up an act, by which the King was enabled to apply all the money in the hands of the Bank Truſtees to public ſervice, in ſuch manner as he thought moſt expedient (f).

(f) 1ſt of December.

This was a dreadful ſtroke to the public credit; ſtocks ſunk almoſt to nothing, and the conſequences were an immediate ſtop in the payment of the public intereſt. However, in violent diſorders, violent remedies are neceſſary. The King no ſooner poſſeſſed this money, which amounted to ſome millions, than he paid off all the arrears of the army, and gave orders for the ſame in the navy. Nothing could exceed the rapidity of his meaſures. His troops were rendezvouſed at Buckingham; and in a few days he put himſelf at the head of them. The whole army, when collected, amounted to near thirty thouſand men; five thouſand of which were horſe,

In the mean time, the enemy under Count Schmettau had made little or no progreſs, conſidering the time they had been landed. Had they marched immediately

ately for London the moment they were debarked, George would have had much leſs time to collect his forces; but Schmettau having taken Durham by ſtorm, he moſt imprudently gave his troops three days to plunder; this conduct was madneſs itſelf. The Ruſſians broke into all the houſes, and were guilty of every ſpecies of exceſs. Their cruelties were unheard of and unparalleled; the moſt tender age was no defence againſt theſe mercileſs monſters; old men, women, and children, were butchered in cool blood, in the moſt ſhocking manner; it would make humanity recoil to relate their horrid barbarities; but their ſoldiers were ſoon intoxicated with liquor and cruelty, and all diſcipline and order were at an end.

The King being informed of the condition of the enemy, haſtened his marches with all the expedition that was poſſible. He reached Lincoln in five days;

and there underſtood that Schmettau, on the advice of his approach, had drawn out his men from Durham, though not without great difficulty, and was on the march to York. His Majeſty puſhed on to meet him before he could reach that city; but as it was too ſtrong to be taken by ſurpriſe, Schmettau encamped between York and Wetherby, and prepared to fight the King, who was within five miles of him. There were ſeveral circumſtances that induced George to determine on hazarding an action immediately; he expected ſoon to hear of another army of Ruſſians landing; and he thought that avoiding a battle would damp the ſpirits of his ſoldiers; add to this, the barbarous ravages of the ſavage enemy call'ed aloud on his humanity to put a ſtop to the miſeries of his ſuffering ſubjects: he accordingly drew near to the enemy, and reconnoitred their ſituation, and prepared to attack them

them the next day, the 23d of December.

Schmettau drew up his army on the ſide of a hill, with a rivulet in his front, a wood on each wing, and a village in his rear, which he had ſlightly fortified, and threw ſome battalions into the houſes. All the King's motions ſeemed to indicate a deſign of attacking him in his front, and he had therefore raiſed ſeveral batteries that commanded the paſſage of the rivulet: his Majeſty, however, finding that all the attention of the enemy was carried to their front, determined to make only a feint there, and attack them in their rear. Accordingly, about three o'clock in the morning, he gave General Sommers the command of ten thouſand men, with orders to remain in the field, ready for action at a moment's warning, and as ſoon as he heard a ſignal they agreed on, to paſs the rivulet, and make an attack on

on the enemy's front, while the King himſelf would paſs the river higher up and fall on their rear.

This ſcheme had all the ſucceſs that could have been wiſhed for. General Sommers had no ſooner made his attack than Schmettau gave into the ſnare: he concluded immediately that the whole Engliſh army was at his front, and, placing himſelf at the head of his firſt line, which included the choice of his army, he repulſed the Engliſh, but by the unparalleled bravery of the Britiſh troops was obliged to give way himſelf in his turn. Juſt at that critical moment the King made his attack on his rear, with a fury that at once threw the Ruſſians into confuſion; and Schmettau, finding himſelf between two fires, would have made his retreat had it been in his power: he made every effort to recover his overſight, and thrice rallied and led his troops to the charge; but the

the unconquerable fury of the King's attacks over came every thing; never man performed greater feats of perſonal valour; he had three horſes killed under him, and as he was going to mount a fourth was near being ſhot by a Ruſſian grenadier, but his carbine miſſing fire the King ſhot him dead. What concluded the day was Schmettau's being killed by a cannon ball: his death diſpirited his men, and they ſoon gave way; the ſituation of the ground would permit but a few to eſcape, and thoſe in ſmall bodies through the woods. About twelve o'clock the battle was over. Ten thouſand Ruſſians were killed and wounded, and ſeven thouſand made priſoners. The loſs of the Engliſh was not inconſiderable; it amounted to about three thouſand killed and wounded. The Dukes of Rutland and Newcaſtle, the Earl of Winchelſea, and Generals Howard, Chales, Lord, and French,

French, were killed, beſides which many officers of diſtinction were wounded.

This victory raiſed the ſpirits of the people; and it was particularly pleaſing to them, as their young and next to adored Monarch gained it. The ſhouts of the army were equal to the applauſes of the people; and where a Prince had given ſuch uncommon inſtances of prudence as well as bravery, it was impoſſible but he ſhould be univerſally beloved.

The King had diſcovered a diſpoſition which no dangers could intimidate or difficulties depreſs. He had no ſooner fought the Ruſſian army, than he was informed a freſh fleet, more powerful than their former, was on the coaſt of Suffolk. This news, which caſt a freſh alarm on the minds of the people, only quickened the rapidity of the King's motions. The Engliſh fleet was collected

lected in the Thames and Medway, and by means of the greateſt expedition, was ready to ſail, but waited for a fair wind. It conſiſted of ſixty-four ſail of the line and thirty-two frigates; George was no ſooner informed of the enemy than he determined to command his fleet himſelf. He rode with all expedition to Chatham, and took the command from the Duke of Grafton, who was recovered of his late wounds, but his Grace continued in the ſhip with his Majeſty to give him his advice.—The Britannia, on board of which was the King, was, without exception, the fineſt ſhip in the world; ſhe carried 120 braſs guns, and, in the opinion of the beſt judges, was ſo well built and manned, that no ſingle ſhip could live near her. Nothing could exceed the joy of the ſailors at having their young victorious Sovereign at their head, they expreſſed the greateſt impatience to attack the enemy;

enemy; and the wind fortunately ſhifting, in two days gave them their deſire.

The Ruſſian fleet conſiſted of eighty-nine ſail of the line beſides frigates, and a fleet of tranſports which it was ſuppoſed might contain about ten thouſand ſoldiers. About eight in the morning (g) the battle begun; the enemy's Admiral, Steinhold, in a ſhip of 80 guns, and another of 70 bore down on the the Britannia; the King met them, and ſingly engaged them; at one broadſide the Ruſſian Admiral was ſunk to the bottom; a dreadful ſtroke, which threw their fleet into diſorder; the other 70 gun-ſhip ſheered off in a few minutes, and the Britannia was left without an enemy. The Marlborough was engaged with two Ruſſian ſhips, who were too ſtrong for her, but the King pouring a broadſide into one of them,

(g) Jan. 10, 1901.

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immediately turned the ſuperiority in favour of the Marlboough: by eleven o'clock the Ruſſian fleet ſheered off, and his Majeſty chaced: nine of their line of battle ſhips were taken, three ſunk, and two burnt; forty tranſports were alſo taken, and ſeveral ſunk. Thus did this young and gallant Monarch, with all the courage, conduct, and ſkill, of an experienced Admiral, defeat the enemy's fleet, which was ſo much ſuperior to his own. This ſecond victory raiſed the fame of the King to the higheſt pitch, changed the face of affairs, and ſpread a general joy through the breaſts of all his ſubjects.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Military regulations of the King.—War with France.—Invaſion of Flanders.—Battle of Winox.—Rapid ſucceſſes.—Naval engagement.—Peace.

TWO ſuch glorious victories ſeated George with ſecurity on the throne, But his ſucceſs did not occaſion the leaſt neglect in his military preparations; he was now ſuperior to the enemy at ſea, and was determined, at all events, to preſerve his ſuperiority. Ten ſail were fitting out with all expedition at Milford Haven, and other ſquadrons were getting ready at Portſmouth, Plymouth, Chatham, Hull, and Lynn. The King had particular reaſons for not ſuffering his preparations to relax. The King of France was at this time buſied in fitting out a large fleet, and all the ports of that kingdom, from Amſterdam to Bayonne, re-

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founded with naval armaments. George looked on theſe with a very jealous eye; the Court of Verſailles, indeed, gave out that they were intended againſt the Emperor of Morocco, who had lately inſulted his Ambaſſador; but it was evident that preparations ſo very great indicated ſome further deſign in view: however, a trifling accident ſoon explained the views of the French court.

An Engliſh privateer in the Channel having attacked another carrying Ruſſian colours, and diſabled her; ſhe hung out French colours. It ſeems a merchant at Rotterdam had fitted her out to cruiſe upon the Engliſh, and gave the Captain orders, that if he met with an enemy too ſtrong for him to ſhow French colours. This affair, in which the French were evidently aggreſſors, was made a pretence for a quarrel; the French Ambaſſador at London demanded ſatisfaction for the damage done

done the French ſhip; the King returned a moſt ſpirited anſwer: and in ſhort, after many memorials and replies, the King of France declared war againſt Great-Britain, and was anſwered by his Britannic Majeſty. (h) Charles, jealous of the Britiſh power, had entered into an offenſive and defenſive treaty with Peter, and had agreed to receive the Ruſſian ſhips into the ports of France; and by combining their reſpective fleets, to overpower the naval force of George at once.

Fortunately for the King, Peter was dilatory in his preparations; the Britiſh fleet, to the amount of ninety ſail of the line, was ready for action, and ſaw no enemy that could look it in the face. But the King was determined to loſe no time; collecting a large fleet of tranſports, he embarked twenty thouſand

(h) May 6th.

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men on board them, and reſolved to form an invaſion of France: He gave out that he deſigned to attack Breſt; and to deceive the enemy the better, ſent veſſels to ſound the depth of water on ſeveral parts of the coaſts of Britany. The enemy marched down troops from all parts of France to defend themſelves where they thought the deſcent was intended; but the King's plan was well laid, and unſuſpected by the Court of Verſailles. Inſtead of ſteering to the coaſt of Britany he directed his courſe to that of Flanders, and, without the leaſt oppoſition, landed his whole army on the beach of Blankenburg.

He immediately publiſhed and diſperſed a memorial to the Dutch, exhorting them to take this favourable opportunity of regaining their liberty, promiſing to do every thing for them that could be any way conducive to ſo ſalutary

ſalutary an end; but their ſpirits were too much depreſſed, and they were kept too much in awe by the garriſons that were in their ſeveral fortreſſes to liſten to a deliverer. George marched towards Bruges, which capitulated without the firing a gun. Oſtend, Ypres, and Newport coſt him ſome days; but his progreſs was ſo rapid before the French had an army to oppoſe him, that his difficulty in theſe conqueſts was not very great. The Marſhal Duke de Vivione at laſt appeared near Dunkirk, after a forced march, at the head of forty thouſand men. The King was no ſooner informed of his approach than he determined to fight him directly; delays to him were dangerous; whereas, the enemy would every day increaſe in ſtrength. Vivione was encamped at Winox, and entrenching himſelf, waited for reinforcements; but George having ſent ſpies to reconoitre his ſituation,

tuation, found that his piquets were placed in a very negligent manner, and that it would be no difficult circumſtance to ſurpriſe him in the night.

In purſuance of this opinion, about one in the morning, of the 10th of September, at the head of ten regiments, forming the firſt line of his army, he attacked the enemy's entrenchments; the onſet was no ſooner made than they were forced; the French ſoldiers ran naked to their arms; ſeveral of their Generals did all in their power to rally them, but in vain; the Duke de Vivione had his head ſhot off by a cannon-ball in the beginning of the attack, and before day-light their army was defeated and totally diſperſed. The enemy being purſued, and great numbers made priſoners, the King preſented himſelf before Dunkirk, and the cowardly Governor gave up the town, to his aſtoniſhment, without attempting any thing

for its defence. Calais opened its gates to the conqueror, and St. Omer ſurrendered after a week's ſiege.

Theſe rapid ſucceſſes terrified the court of Charles; they were ſurpriſed at the boldneſs of George's attempt, to make a regular attack on ſo powerful a monarchy as that of France, with ſuch a handful of men. But it was a maxim with the King to deſpiſe numerous armies: forty thouſand men, he often ſaid, under a good General, were a match for any number; and with ſome favourable circumſtances even twenty-five or thirty thouſand. Charles, to ſtop the progreſs of his Britannic Majeſty, placed the Duke of Ventadour at the head of a prodigious army (collected from all parts of France) of near one hundred thouſand men; a force, if well managed, by being divided into two or three armies, ſtrong enough to overwhelm George at once: but numerous

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as this body of troops were, they came only to be ſpectators of the ſucceſs of the King of England. Without a ſingle blow his Majeſty made himſelf maſter of Bologne, and, ſlipping by the French army in the night, ſurpriſed Monſtrevil. The road to Paris was now open to him; the Royal Family retired from Verſailles; Charles would have tryed the fortune of the war himſelf, but a violent fit of the gout confined him to his palace. The Duke de Ventadour, by his injudicious motions, was incapable of ſtopping the King's progreſs; he laid ſiege to Amiens, and it ſurrendered before the Duke could arrive to protect it. Neufchatel had the ſame fate; and the King, aſtoniſhed at his own ſucceſs, had thoughts of making a flying march to Paris. The French army formed ſuch an unweildy body, that it was for ever expoſed to the ſudden attacks of the Engliſh; Venta-

dour was but an indifferent General, and had to oppoſe a young Monarch, whoſe late actions rendered him the moſt celebrated commander in Europe.

In the mean time the attention of Peter was called off, in a great meaſure, from the Engliſh war, by a new enemy, that had made a formidable attack upon his dominions. Bajazet, Emperor of the Turks, an old enemy of the Czar's, thought this a fair opportunity to recover Crim Tartary, which the Ruſſian Monarch had conquered from him in the laſt war; in this ſituation he liſtened, with pleaſure, to the remonſtrances of the Engliſh Ambaſſador, who left no ſtone unturned that could engage the Emperor in the war. Bajazet thought the moment ſo fair, when Peter was engaged in a moſt expenſive war with Great Britain, that the Grand Viſier, Selim, at the head of two hundred

dred thouſand men marched into Ruſſia. The Czar collected his forces to oppoſe this inundation of Turks; and juſt as the two armies were beginning the war, the Ruſſian fleet of near one hundred ſail of the line appeared in the Channel.

The Britiſh fleet, under the Duke of Grafton, (who, though he had ſometimes met with ill ſucceſs, was one of the greateſt Admirals Britain had ever produced) was about equal in force to that of the Ruſſians. It was not long before the two Admirals found an opportunity to engage. It would be tedious to give the particulars of this furious battle, it laſted a whole day without being deciſive; the Ruſſians loſt five ſhips of the line, and the Engliſh four; if any thing, the advantage was for the latter; but before morning the two fleets parted, and, the wind blowing a violent ſtorm for the two next

days, nineteen Ruſſian men of war were driven aſhore on the coaſt of Norfolk, and were there burnt; the Engliſh loſt only two, but had ſeveral diſmaſted.

This ſtroke ſecured to George his ſuperiority at ſea. This navy was ſo powerful that the French fleets were blocked up in their ports, and were not ſtrong enough to look the Engliſh in the face; ſo that Charles now ſaw all his hopes blaſted, and the King of England at the head of a victorious army ready to march to Paris itſelf. In this critical ſituation he determined to ſue for peace. George, whoſe conduct was guided by juſtice not inordinate ambition, readily liſtened to the propoſal. He appointed Ambaſſadors to meet thoſe of France at Beauvais, where a peace was ſoon agreed to; the Czar ſent an Ambaſſador on his part, ſo it became general between the three nations. The principal article was, That Charles ſhould cauſe

cauſe to be paid to the King of Great Britain two millions of pounds ſterling, for the expences of the war, at three equal payments, ſix months between each. The treaty being ſigned by the two Monarchs and the Ruſſian Ambaſſador, George withdrew his forces out of France, and evacuated all his conqueſts. (i)

CHAP. IV.

Intereſt of the national debt reduced.—The building of the palace and city of Stanley, and ——— ——— George VI. *encourages the Arts, Sciences, and Literature.*

NEVER was any quarrel concluded more glorioufly. George now found himſelf at peace with all the world; he had been victorious againſt the moſt potent monarchy on

(i) 1902.

earth, and another formidable kingdom: theſe ſucceſſes ſecured him abroad, but at home all was confuſion. The ſtopping payment of the intereſt of the public debt had thrown innumerable families into extreme indigence; yet the meaſure was abſolutely neceſſary, and the very exiſtence of the nation had been preſerved by it. But as the war was now at an end, the parliament took under their conſideration the ſtate of the national debt; and, after a multitude of propoſals, calculations, and debates, they agreed, by a ſmall majority, that the intereſt, at the rate it then ſtood, was a burthen too great for the nation to bear; and appointed a committee to draw up a bill for reducing it. The preamble to this bill ſet forth the ſad internal ſtate of the nation—painted, in the ſtrongeſt colours, the impoſſibility of paying the intereſt on the national funds—ſhowed that

that an attempt to go on in doing it, must end in a total bankruptcy, and the utter ruin of all concerned—that under these circumstances half the present interest would be of more real value than the whole, in the dangerous situation they were now in; and the bill accordingly enacted, that the interest on every fund of which the national debt was composed should be reduced one half. (k)

History cannot produce an instance of such an event as this being effected with so little disturbance. All ranks of people seemed content with their half; they had lately seen the extreme danger to which the nation was reduced for want of money, and they chearfully considered, that, if they lost a half of their income, it was to preserve their lives, their liberties, and the

(k) 1903.

remainder of their fortunes. This great event would not have been brought about with ſo much eaſe and expedition, but the path was ſketched out by the bill, which was drawn up for the ſame (but which miſcarried) in the reign of George IV. But it no ſooner paſſed into a law now, than its good conſequences were immediately felt by the nation in general. Such an enormous incumbrance was no ſooner removed, than George found his kingdom vigorous and more formidable than ever. (l)

A young

(l) It may not be unentertaining to the reader, here to lay before him the particulars of the grants this year, after the peace had taken place.

	£.
5000 ſeamen, including marines and ordnance for ſea ſervice.	2,900,000
45000 men, land-forces, in Germany and Great Britain, &c. and ordnance for ditto,	2,250,000
Greenwich Hoſpital,	35,000

Milford

A young Monarch of his active ſpirit, was not likely to waſte the time which peace left on his hands in idle diſſipation. He underſtood many arts perfectly, and was tolerably well acquainted with moſt. His favourite, the Duke of Suffolk, was alſo a lover of literature, and ſpent a great part of his time in the converſation of men of let-

	£.
Milford Hoſpital,	40,000
Building, rebuilding, and repairing his Majeſty's ſhips	600,000
To the nine Foundling Hoſpitals	90,000
Adding new fortifications to Batavia, &c.	100,000
To his Majeſty for fortifying other places in the Eaſt-Indies	50,000
Deepening and enlarging the harbour of Hull, and docks	200,000
Civil Liſt	2000,000
	3,255,000
Intereſt of the national debt	4,250,000
	12,485,000

ters. The Arts and Sciences at this period, in England, wanted nothing but encouragement to raiſe them to a very ſplendid height, and to make the age of George VI. rival any of thoſe remote ones that are ſo celebrated in hiſtory. It is both entertaining and curious to reflect on their ſtate during this reign, and compare it with the preſent; thoſe great men whoſe names alone would have immortalized the age of George VI. are now gone, and have left none to ſucceed them. Indeed they ſtill live in their admirable works, but have left few ſucceſſors to their genius and abilities. But to leave this digreſſion, let us take a view of the Arts in the period of which we are ſpeaking.

George had a natural taſte for them; and what was of equal conſequence to their ſucceſs, was rich, liberal, and magnificent. Hitherto his time had been engroſſed

engroſſed by more weighty concerns; but now that peace left him the maſter of his time, he diſplayed a taſte and genius in more arts than that of war. London, though the wonder of the world, never pleaſed the King. Its prodigious ſize was its only boaſt; it contained few buildings that did honour to the nation; in a word, it was a city finely calculated for trade, but not for the reſidence of the polite arts. The meanneſs of his Majeſty's palace diſguſted him; he had a taſte for architecture, and determined to exert it in raiſing an edifice, that ſhould at once do honour to his kingdom, and add ſplendour to his court.

In Rutlandſhire, near Uppingham, was a ſmall hunting box of the late King's, which George admired; not for the building, but its beautiful ſituation. In his hours of rural amuſements

ments the King formed the deſign of raiſing a palace. Few parts of his dominions could afford a more deſireable ſpot for ſuch a purpoſe. The old ſeat ſtood on an elevated ſituation, which commanded an extenſive proſpect over the adjacent country. It was almoſt ſurrounded with extenſive woods; which, having been artfully planted, added the greateſt beauty to the proſpect, without intercepting the view. On one ſide there was an eaſy deſcent of about three miles, which led into an extenſive plain, through which a river took its meandering courſe. Many villages ſeemed to riſe here and there from out the woods, which gave a great variety to the ſcene, and the fertile plain was one continued proſpect of villages, groves, meadows, and rivulets, and all was in the neighbourhood of a noble and capacious foreſt.

This

This charming ſituation muſt have ſtruck any perſon of leſs taſte than the King; he was charmed with it at the firſt ſight, and ſoon after thought of building a palace on ſo advantageous a ſituation. The famous Gilbert, whoſe name is immortalized by ſo many works of genius, was, at that time, architect to the King. He drew the plans of ſeveral palaces, out of which his Majeſty choſe one; and immediately ſet him about the work. Many difficulties were to be over-come before even the firſt ſtone could be laid; the fabric was to be built with Portland ſtone, which could not be brought to the ſpot without an infinite expence over-land; to remedy this inconvenience, the parliament paſſed an act to make the river Welland navigable to the very plain, at the bottom of the hill on which the intended palace was to be raiſed. The ſame ſeſſions alſo granted his Majeſty a million

lion ſterling towards the expence of building this magnificent pile. The King ſpared no coſt to render this edifice the moſt magnificent and ſuperb palace in the univerſe. Gilbert had an unlimited power granted him to follow his genius in every particular, without the leaſt reſtraint. Fleets of ſhips were continually paſſing from Portland to Hull and Lynn with cargos of ſtone, which were conveyed in barges to the place where the palace was to be built. Ten ſail were ſent to the different ports of Italy, to load the fineſt marbles. In ſhort, nothing wrs ſpared to make this palace the wonder of the world; (m) but the erection of it was only a part of the King's deſign.

In the plain above deſcribed his Majeſty formed the ſcheme of raiſing a city; but was ſtaggered at the thoughts of

(m) It was founded in 1907.

the

the expence; however, Moor the architect hinted to him, that if his Majesty was to raise a few public edifices, and remove some of the courts from London thither, they would alone occasion numbers to build near their residence; that his Majesty's fixing his own residence there, would also occasion a vast increase of building.—The King was pleased with the thought, and determined to execute it. The great Gilbert drew the ground plot of that part which now reaches from St. Mary's church quite to Great Hollis-Street and Scotland Square. St. Stephen's was his work too, and is a beautiful monument of his taste and genius; that church and the academy, for architecture, (n) were the two first public buildings that were raised; Moor was the artist who erected the latter; but this deserves a more particular mention.

(n) 1909.

Archi-

Architecture was one of the King's favourite ſtudies; but its being an art was recommendation enough for that great Monarch to encourage it. The plan on which this academy was formed, was finely imagined to ſecure a perpetual protection. It conſiſted of a Preſident, with a ſalary of two thouſand pounds a year; Gilbert was the firſt: Six (o) ſenior and twelve (p) junior profeſſors, the former five, and the latter three hundred pounds a year each. What a noble inſtitution was this. Worthy the Monarch who formed the out-line, and the Miniſter that finiſhed the deſign. (q) George had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing

(o) The firſt inſtituted were Comins, Holt, Moor, Brown, Salviola the Spaniard, and Stevens:

(p) James, Philipſon, Padrao an Italian, Rickſon, Manly, Hare, Thompſon, Johnſon, Weal, Place, Richards, and Stephenſon.

(q) Duke of Suffolk.

Stanley

Stanley increaſed beyond what his moſt ardent wiſhes could have deſired. Moſt of the nobility, and many of the rich commoners, in imitation of their Sovereign, erected magnificent palaces; it grew the faſhion among the higher order of his ſubjects to erect houſes at Stanley. The Dukes of Suffolk, Buckingham, Richmond, Kent, and Bridgewater, the Earls of Surry, Winchelſea, Middleton and Bury, and Mr. Moleſworth, particularly diſtinguiſhed themſelves by the ſplendour of their palaces, amongſt many others. But what gave a prodigious increaſe to this noble city was the erection of the ſenate houſe: that noble building, which is now the admiration of all Europe, was the maſter-piece of the celebrated Moor. The front is certainly one of the fineſt pieces of architecture in the world. It was finiſhed in 1913. The ſame year the parliament aſſembled in it; and here I cannot

not help quoting a paſſage in their addreſs, as the praiſe it contains was perfectly merited by this great Monarch.—
" Aſſembled in this edifice, which is
" one of the many marks of your Ma-
" jeſty's magnificence, and princely en-
" couragement of the arts and ſciences,
" we cannot omit congratulating your
" Majeſty on the completion of ſo no-
" ble a monument of your grandeur
" and the nation's glory. And we re-
" turn your Majeſty our moſt dutiful
" acknowledgements, for ſo ſplendid a
" mark of your eſteem for your parlia-
" ment, which led you to erect ſo mag-
" nificent a ſenate houſe out of your
" private revenue. We join with the
" reſt of your Majeſty's ſubjects in ex-
" preſſing our admiration of your royal
" and princely virtues; your noble en-
" couragement of the arts and ſciences,
" adds a freſh luſtre to the title of hero,
" which your Majeſty's great actions
" had before moſt juſtly conferred."—

This

This ſeſſion voted the King a million ſterling for the ſenate houſe, and granted five hundred thouſand pounds a year *till his Majeſty's building ſhould be finiſhed.*

Nothing could exceed the magnificence of Gilbert's plan for this glorious city. The houſes were all built to form one general front on each ſide of every ſtreet. Nothing was uſed but Portland ſtone. The ſtreets were broad, well paved, and the buildings not too high. Many noble ſquares were marked out; and ſome finiſhed. The theatre was the work of his Majeſty himſelf, who drew the plan, and ſhowing it to Gilbert, that great man told the King it had not a ſingle fault;—but this compliment had not ſincerity enough in it. It certainly contains ſome blemiſhes, but is undoubtedly a work of genius. The three centuries before his Majeſty's reign did not produce ſo fine a building.

no ſooner begun to build than he ſent connoiſſeurs through all Europe to collect paintings, ſtatues, rarities, books and manuſcripts, and in theſe commiſſions he ſpared no expenſe. He even diſpatched Ambaſſadors to Conſtantinople, and throughout all Aſia, to make collections, and always chooſing the propereſt men for executing his commands, he ſucceeded better than any Monarch that ever attempted to tread in his footſteps. The palace of Stanley thus became the repoſitory of all the curioſities which the world afforded. No wonder his palace became ſo celebrated, and drew ſuch numbers of foreigners into England, when the collection of pictures and ſtatues it contained were almoſt equal in value, and number of capital pieces, to what remained throughout all Europe; and his library contained above thirteen hundred thouſand valuable books and manuſcripts.

This

This glorious building was not only the reſidence of royalty, but might properly be called the Temple of the Muſes. In his hours of relaxation from buſineſs the King here converſed with Reynolds, that great genius, who united the elegance of Maſon and the genius of Shakeſpear: with Young, whoſe comedies far exceeded thoſe of the celebrated Symonds: with Pine, who, to the inventive imagination of Milton, added the correctneſs and harmony of Pope. What a memorable epocha was it in hiſtory, when a George VI. converſed with three great poets, in a palace built by Gilbert, and painted by Nicholſon.

But an event happened that, for a while, turned off the attention of the King from theſe ſublime employments.

CHAP. V.

Ruſſians and French attack the Empire.—Battle of Augſburgh.—Battle of Lutzen.—Siege of Vienna.—George VI. *aſſiſts the Emperor Frederick.—Famous march.—Battle of Vienna.—Ruſſians and French driven out of Germany.—George attacks France, and enters Paris.—Battle.*

WHEN we conſider the diſpoſitions of the three principal Sovereigns at this period on the continent, it will not appear wonderful that the peace between them ſhould not be laſting. The ambition of Peter, the cunning policy of Charles, and the weakneſs of Frederick, formed ſuch contraſts as muſt neceſſarily produce no long friendſhip among them. The Emperor of Ruſſia ever reſtleſs, and weary of peace, looked with envious eyes on the

the fair provinces of Germany. The weakneſs of the reigning Emperor gave him a fair opportunity to attempt the execution of his ſchemes. He entered into a negotiation with Charles, which ended in a treaty, aimed at Frederic. It was agreed that Mecklenbourg, Pomerania, and ſome other of the northern provinces, ſhould be conquered and ceded to Peter, and the ſouthern Auſtrian duchies, to Charles. This flagrant treaty was no ſooner ſigned, than pretenſes were ſought for to break with the unſuſpecting Frederic. Between ambitious Princes theſe are ſeldom wanted long. It would be endleſs to repeat even the titles of the memorials, anſwers, and rejoinders that were publiſhed between the parties; but the Emperor, finding his enemies were determined to attack him, prepared for his defenſe. The Duke of Saxony, his General, collected his troops, and found himſelf at

the head of ſeventy thouſand men; with theſe he marched againſt the King of France, who, at the head of near one hundred thouſand men, had begun the war. The Duke attacked the King near Augſburgh; and, after a deſperate and bloody battle, defeated him. (r) This victory ſtopped the progreſs of the French arms, and enabled the Duke to direct his march towards Brandenburgh, which was over-run by the Ruſſians. Peter, at the head of ninety thouſand men, had taken Berlin, and two other Ruſſian armies were making a rapid progreſs. The Duke of Saxony, with his victorious army, made flying marches to repel theſe invaders. It was not long before he had an opportunity of fighting the Czar. About four o'clock in the morning the two armies joined battle, in the very plain where Guſtavus

(r) 1917.

Adolphus

Adolphus the great fought the battle of Lutzen. Succeſs hung quivering over each army for a conſiderable time; at laſt the Duke was killed, and his death was followed by the total defeat of his whole army. This great victory was hardly gained when Peter was informed that his ally, the King of France, had recovered his late diſgrace by gaining a ſignal victory over the Electors of Hanover and Bavaria, who, with fifty thouſand men, had taken arms in defenſe of the empire.

Frederick's affairs were now faſt advancing to ruin; the Ruſſians on one ſide and the French on the other, preſſed him ſo hard, that he determined, with a ſtrong garriſon and plenty of proviſions, to ſhut himſelf up in Vienna, one of the ſtrongeſt cities in Europe. He ſent Ambaſſadors to George VI. to implore his protection, and after ſeeing

his enemies in poſſeſſion of his dominions, ſhut himſelf up in his capital; which Peter, with one hundred and fifty thouſand men, immediately inveſted.

The King of England, who panted for glory, when honour pointed out the path, was now moved by humanity: he pitied the condition of the unhappy Emperor, and determined to aſſiſt him. He laid before the parliament, ever ready to concur with their Monarch in proſecuting the intereſt and honour of their country, the ſtate of Europe; diſplayed the ſad ſituation of the houſe of Brandenburgh, and aſked their concurrence in ſupporting it. The wiſhes of the whole kingdom attended the King in this demand; and the commons having granted the neceſſary ſupplies, George increaſed his forces to eighty thouſand men, and his fleet was manned and ready for ſervice in caſe of neceſſity, and

and ſoon after a vaſt fleet of tranſports wafted the King, at the head of ſixty thouſand of the braveſt troops in the world, to the coaſt of Flanders. Had the Emperor been in a leſs critical ſituation he could have drawn one of his enemies off by marching to Paris; but nothing could ſave Frederic except raiſing the ſiege of Vienna. George, therefore, loſt no time, but began a long and dangerous march, through a country wholely poſſeſſed by the enemy. He had with him a vaſt train of artillery, and a multitude of baggage waggons, yet, thus incumbered, he ventured on one of the moſt dangerous expeditions that ever was known. All the paſſes, quite from Flanders to Auſtria, were in the hands of the French and Ruſſians: he had many fortreſſes to paſs by; and a prodigious number of rivers to croſs. Yet all theſe difficulties ſo far from ſlackening the activity of the King,

ing. Its ſimplicity and grandeur are admirable.

The academy of painting was another inſtitution which would alone have rendered the memory of any Monarch dear to the arts and ſciences. It was reſerved for the age of George VI. to be graced with a liſt of great artiſts in this country, whoſe works ſhould render their own names as well as his immortal. From the foundation of the Engliſh monarchy to the age of George, Britain had never ſeen a painter that could rank in the firſt claſs of foreign artiſts. But though this great King could not create, yet he drew by his encouragements and rewards, artiſts from their retirements, and ſet them to work. No genius ever met with even a rebuke from George; merit was ſure to be rewarded; and excellence in any art the certain road to fortune. Gilbert was the architect of the building, and its grandeur is well known; the Preſident of this

this academy had a ſalary of two thouſand pounds a year; ten ſeats, each five hundred; and forty young artiſts were maintained, and had apartments allotted them, with penſions of one hundred pounds a year each. Nothing was ever better planned to promote the progreſs of this delightful art; and its ſucceſs in England under this reign was accordingly prodigious. Nicholſon, an Engliſh artiſt, and whoſe name will for ever ſtand foremoſt in the liſt of painters was the Preſident of the academy. Beſides which appointment he was loaded with riches, and created a Baronet. The battle of the angels, in the ſalon of the palace, which this great man painted, is ſecond to no picture in the world. Tomkins, Vere, and Norton, were all Engliſh artiſts, and not inferior to the celebrated Italians of the age of Leo X. The firſt was equal to Correggio himſelf, and the laſt exceeded Dominichi and Guido. Who does not glow with ardour

ardour at the rememberance of the works of theſe divine maſters? Who does not regret their loſs?—they are gone, and have left but few behind them that can pretend to any degree of competition. The other artiſts that had ſeats in the academy are well known: Simpſon painted the Jupiter Olympos] in the ſalon of Apollo; a picture which would alone have immortaliſed him. The moſt ſplendid court in Europe was ſure to be attended with a multitude of foreign artiſts. Spinoza, Martileat, and Carvianté, were received in the moſt diſtinguiſhed manner by the King, and had each penſions of five hundred pounds granted them, beſides being liberally paid for their works. Never was any art ſo much obliged to a Sovereign, as that of painting to George VI.

The palace itſelf, which has for ſo many years been the delight and wonder of Britain, was finiſhed in 1915, eight

eight years after its foundation. Never was any building raiſed ſo expeditiouſly. —It was, indeed, aſtoniſhing; but, the King ſparing no expenſe, Gilbert finiſhed this ſuperb edifice in ſo ſhort a time, by means of the infinite number of hands he kept conſtantly employed on it. It would be endleſs to deſcribe this amazing pile of building; and it has already been done in all the languages of Europe. The famous Eſcurial of Philip the IId. of Spain, and Verſailles of Lewis XIV. of France, of both which we read ſuch pompous accounts, were infinitely exceeded by Stanley. The ſhell of the building alone coſt the King above eight millions ſterling. The adorning and furniſhing it was the work of above fifty years, and the expenſe infinite. The ceilings and apartments were painted by Nicholſon, Tomkins, Vere, Norton, and many other celebrated artiſts. The King had

ſerved only to ſpur him more eagerly on. The particulars of this celebrated march are well known. George, almoſt without the loſs of a man, arrived in Auſtria, on the banks of the Danube, after one of the moſt expeditious marches ever known. He ſlipped by three armies, whoſe only buſineſs was to intercept him; he paſſed every river in ſafety, and, to the aſtoniſhment of all the world, was in a condition to fight the Czar of Moſcovy, almoſt as ſoon as that Monarch had heard of his approach.

Peter immediately raiſed the ſiege, and, drawing up his forces in the plains of Vienna, prepared to fight the King of England, who was alſo engaged in the ſame employment. The Ruſſian army had a ſuperiority of above ſixty thouſand men, conſequently their numbers were two to one; but no dangers could

could depreſs the heart of George. Having, with moving batteries, ſecured the rear and wings of his army from being ſurrounded; he placed his artillery in the moſt advantageous manner, and dividing his front into two lines, at the head of the firſt he began the attack; after his artillery had played on the enemy an hour, with great ſucceſs. The Ruſſian infantry, animated by the preſence of their Czar, under whom they had ſo often conquered, repulſed him with ſome loſs. The King hereupon made a ſecond and ſtill more furious attack, but yet without ſucceſs. At that critical moment the Duke of Devonſhire, who commanded his left wing, ſent for immediate aſſiſtance, as he was hard preſſed by the ſuperior numbers of the enemy. George flew like lightning to his weakened troops, and placing himſelf at the head of ſix regiments of dragoons, made ſuch a furious attack

on the eager Ruſſians as threw them into diſorder, and following his advantage, puſhed them with great ſucceſs. Thus, having given his left time to rally and renew the attack, he returned to the centre; where his preſence was equally wanted. The Czar, having repulſed his two firſt attacks, and finding the Engliſh at a ſtand, not knowing the reaſon, he made a violent and well directed aſſault on them, which being repulſed, he renewed it with ſtill greater vigour. The King of England coming up at that moment, and placing himſelf at the head of fifteen thouſand horſe, attacked the centre of the Ruſſian army with ſuch irreſiſtable impetuoſity that he bore down all before him. Every effort the Czar could make proved ineffectual, the King purſuing his ſucceſs, renewed his attacks on a broken enemy; which threw their whole army into the utmoſt confuſion. The

Czar

Czar ordered a retreat, but it was made in miſerable order; the King diſpatched the Duke of Devonſhire to purſue the enemy with thirty thouſand men, who made a prodigious ſlaughter; the vaſt numbers of the Ruſſians, only increaſſing their confuſion.

Thus did this magnanimous Monarch gain this glorious victory, againſt double his own number, over ſome of the beſt troops in Europe, who had been uſed to victory. Never could General ſhow more diſtinguiſhing proofs of a moſt heroic courage, than the King in this great day. This victory was thoroughly complete, thirty-five thouſand Ruſſians were left dead in the field of battle, twenty-four thouſand made priſoners, and thirteen thouſand wounded; in ſhort, the Czar before he arrived in Denmark, had loſt above eighty thouſand men, a loſs in one battle almoſt unparalleled.

unparalleled. The trophies were two hundred pieces of braſs cannon, beſides colous and drums, &c. without number; and their military cheſt was taken, containing above thirty millions of roubles, a prodigious ſum.

But the greatneſs of the King's victory was beſt ſeen in its conſequences; the Emperor Frederick embraced him as his deliverer,——Germany was entirely cleared of both Ruſſians and French; for Charles on the news of the battle of Vienna, which was like a thunder-bolt to him, had abandoned all his haſty acquiſitions, and retired into France, to prepare for King George's reception, as he every day expected an attack. Nor was he miſtaken; the King had no ſooner ſeen the Emperor firm on his late tottering throne, than he directed his march towards France, determining to puniſh Charles for his unjuſt

unjuſt attack on Frederick. He met with no oppoſition, and entered France, as he would have entered England. In three weeks the whole duchy of Lorraine was ſubdued; and Rheims opened its gates to the conqueror. George advanced towards Paris with haſty marches; the Court in the greateſt terror retired to Orleans, and on the ſixth of September, 1918, the King of England entered Paris at the head of his victorious army.

The whole French nation were aſtoniſhed at the ſucceſs of George, and a general deſpondency enſued every where, but in the breaſt of Charles. That Prince was in the neighbourhood of Lyons, at the head of a powerful army; but in doubt whether he ſhould fight the Engliſh or no; his very crown was at ſtake; a defeat muſt inevitably ſtrip him of his dominions; and on the other hand,

hand, a puſillanimous conduct could not but ſink the ſpirits of his people ſtill lower, and be attended with perhaps as fatal conſequences; but the rapid ſucceſs of the King of England, hardly allowed him time to think: that Monarch had divided his army into two parts; with one he was over-running Normandy, and the Duke of Devonſhire with the other was conquering Picardé, the Iſle of France, and Champagne; by the end of October, all the northern provinces of France were in the hands of the Engliſh. In the mean time, Charles had increaſed his army to one hundred and thirty thouſand men, but the greateſt part were but indifferently diſciplined; a large body of French troops were in the ſervice of the King of Venice, and were now on their march home; but without ſtaying for theſe, Charles advanced towards Paris. George immediately collected his

his forces, and prudently entrenched himſelf in a very advantageous ſpot; here the King of France attacked him, and fought in that deſperate manner which might be expected from a brave man, whoſe kingdom was at ſtake. But the genius of George prevailed. The Engliſh cannon were placed ſo advantageouſly, and ſo well ſerved, that every attack the French could make, ſerved but to increaſe the prodigious number of their ſlain. Charles at laſt drew off his men from the attack, when the King of England, letting looſe ten thouſand horſe, on the weakened, and almoſt vanquiſhed enemy, completed his victory, with the total defeat of the French. Orleanois, Britany, and Burgundy, were immediately over-run by the Engliſh troops. But winter comeing on, the King left the command in France to the Duke of Devonſhire; and croſſing the water, landed in England; where

where he was received by all his expecting ſubjects with the loudeſt acclamations of unfeigned joy.

CHAP. VI.

War renewed.—Siege of Orleans.—Battle of Orleans. — Battle of Arleux. — Battle of Alençon.—Death of King Charles. —Rapid ſucceſſes. — George enters Paris.— Leaves France, and returns to England.

THE King of England, who thought he had done nothing while he had any thing to do, was ſoon in France; his troops having enjoyed every neceſſary refreſhment, were collected very early in the ſpring; and rendezvouſed in the neighbourhood of Paris. Charles, on his ſide, did every thing that induſtry, artifice, or bravery could effect, to retrieve the terrible condition

condition of his affairs. He had applyed to the court of Madrid for ſuccours, and met with ſucceſs; the King of Spain furniſhed him with money, and by his great vigilance, he had collected his army as ſoon as his enemy. George opened the campaign by beſieging Orleans, a city of the greateſt importance; and Charles determined to attempt raiſing it. He formed a ſcheme for ſurpriſing the King in his entrenchments; one dark night about twelve o'clock, he advanced with near thirty thouſand men, through a hollow way which led to the King's lines: by ſome well conducted motions, he cut off the advanced guards, and knocking down ſeveral ſentinels, made a vigorous attack on the Engliſh entrenchments; the troops unprepared for action, ran haſtily to their arms; the king flew to the quarter where Charles made his attack, and found General Shipton at the head

of

of four regiments, which were by that time half formed, ſuſtaining the vigorous efforts of the French; he rallied and formed his men as faſt as poſſible; but with all the coolneſs imaginable: no effort was lelft untryed by our young Monarch, to repulſe the enemy, he drove them back twice, but ſtill they renewed their attack; at laſt, George unfortunately was wounded in the ſide by a muſket ball, and carryed of the field. No other ſtroke could be half ſo diſpairing to his troops; they gave way almoſt immediately; but yet, the Earl of Bury retired with tolerable order. The Engliſh commanders greatly diſtinguiſhed themſelves in this action, particularly the Earl who conducted the retreat.

Charles fought with the greateſt bravery, and led on his troops with the moſt heroic firmneſs: he ſhowed equal conduct

conduct and courage in the ſcheming, and executing his plan. He revived by this action the ſpirits of his whole kingdom. It was indeed no inconſiderable honour to triumph over the King of England; though the wound that young hero received was Charles's beſt friend. But the victory greatly raiſed his reputation.—The Engliſh were obliged to raiſe the ſiege immediately, and the King was carryed to Mayenne; his wound was not dangerous, but was not likely to be healed ſoon. Nothing could exceed the ſorrow of the whole army at this unhappy accident; they loved the King as a father, and never fought under him, but with an eager certainty of victory; all his dominions wept on receiving the news, and offered up the moſt fervent prayers to heaven for his recovery: the Duke of Devonſhire commanded a ſmall army in Paris, and hearing of the King's defeat, was at

ſome

ſome difficulty to know how to proceed; Charles was on the full march to his capital, and his troops were too few to oppoſe him; yet he could not quit the city without orders, however he ſoon received them from the King, to join the army under the Earl of Bury. It was with ſome difficulty that he effected this, for Charles was bent on making him and his whole army priſoners. But ſlipping by him, he made three forced marches, and joined the royal army, of which he then took the command.

Touraine, Berry, Nivernois, the Iſle of France, Champagne, and part of Normandy, were ſoon over-run by the French troops; Charles found his army was increaſed to near two hundred thouſand men, in high ſpirits at his late victory, and what greatly increaſed his reputation, was the poſſeſſion of Paris. Fluſhed

Fluſhed at the fair appearance his affairs wore, he thought of giving battle to the Duke of Devonſhire, before George was well enough to command in Perſon.

His generals indeed all adviſed him againſt the ſcheme; and repreſented to him that the Engliſh army would decreaſe every day; that his ſubjects were ſo inſpirited with his late ſucceſs, that they would riſe againſt his enemies where ever they ſtill poſſeſſed the command; but that in hazarding a battle, he put all his advantages to the ſtake at once; at a time when a defeat muſt be attended with the moſt fatal conſequences.——Theſe repreſentations had little effect on Charles, impatient for a complete victory, he collected one hundred and twenty thouſand men, and at the head of that vaſt army began his march to attack the Engliſh.

The

The King had been ſome days removed to Caen, when he was informed of the motions of Charles. He ſent immediate orders to the Duke of Devonſhire, to fortify himſelf in the ſtrongeſt manner, and to chooſe the beſt ſituation for a camp for that purpoſe. His Grace obeyed the command without delay, and fixed on an admirable ſituation at Conlié; he ſoon rendered his camp impregnable, and was at the ſame time able to receive all ſorts of ſupplies from the country behind him. The Earl of Bury, with eight thouſand men, was at Alençon; and General Villiers, with ten thouſand at Rennis; ſo that the three armies formed a line, which perfectly ſecured them. On the third of June (r), Charles arrived in ſight of the Engliſh camp; but was ſurpriſed

(r) 1919.

to

to find how admirably every thing was diſpoſed for his reception; he found it was impoſſible to attack the Duke with the leaſt proſpect of ſucceſs: he attacked ſeveral of his poſts, but always met ſuch a reception, as convinced him that nothing could be effected. He turned off towards Paris, after this ineffectual march, and laid ſiege to Chartres, a ſtrong fortreſs, and nearer to the capital than any other in the hands of the Engliſh.

The King of France had hardly undertaken the ſiege, before he had intelligence of an event, which both obliged him to raiſe it, and gave him great uneaſineſs. General Sommers had commanded an army of twenty thouſand Engliſh in Flanders, from the opening of the war; Charles had lately detached the Marquis de Sene-

traire, at the head of forty thouſand men, to give him battle, or prevent his joining the Duke of Devonſhire, as he had made ſome motions which indicated a deſign to undertake that dangerous expedition. Senetraire, with all the raſhneſs of a young ſoldier, for he was but twenty-two, attacked Sommers in a ſtrong entrenchment, and after a ſharp engagement was totally defeated. The Engliſh General made the beſt uſe of ſo fortunate an affair; the battle was fought near Arleux, and quiting the field, he made a flying march with his victorious troops to Amiens, from thence he flew towards Rouen; when the King of France being alarmed at the celerity of his marches, determined to raiſe the ſiege of Chartres, and haſten himſelf to meet him.

George, whoſe wound now began to heal, was in pain for his brave General, and

and finding himſelf pretty well recovered, reſolved to place himſelf at the head of his army: he was adviſed againſt it by his ſurgeons, but in vain: the impetuoſity of his courage, could not be ſtopped; and he arrived at the camp the 29th of June. He immediately drew his forces out of their entrenchments, and calling in the detachments commanded by the Earl of Bury, and General Villiers; he again found himſelf at the head of a gallant army, of ſeventy thouſand men in good ſpirits, and who longed to wipe off their late diſgrace. Charles had marched to Breteuil, to intercept Sommers, and he had ſtationed his troops in ſo judicious a manner, that the Engliſhmen could not paſs him. The King of England having drawn in all his ſcattered troops, moved towards the French King; who prepared to receive him in the moſt vigorous manner. It was plainly fore-

ſeen that a general engagement muſt quickly enſue, for Charles drew up his army, to the amount of one hundred and twenty thouſand men, in order of battle, on the plains of Alençon: George came in ſight of him the fourth of July, and prepared that night to give him battle. The French army was poſted in the moſt advantageous manner. In their front was a rivulet, behind which were nine redoubts mounted with cannon; their wings were defended in the ſame manner, and every approach guarded with artillery.

The King having reconnoitred the enemy's poſition, drew up his troops on the ſame plain, at ſome diſtance in their front. As the French army outſpread his, he diſpoſed his cannon in his wings, in ſuch a manner as to prevent his being ſurrounded; himſelf commanded the centre, the Duke of Devonſhire

vonſhire the right, and the Earl of Bury the left. Every thing being prepared for the engagement, the King ordered the ſignal to be made for beginning it, and about nine in the morning that battle began which was at once to decide the fate of two mighty kingdoms. The French army was the moſt numerous; and commanded by their King. The Monarch of the Engliſh alſo headed them, and they were eager to engage and obliterate by their bravery, the memory of their late defeat. The fire of the artillery was the beginning of this great action; as the Britiſh troops advanced under cover of their own cannon, that of the enemy played on them with great fury, and ſome effect; but the ſkill of the Engliſh engineers ſo well directed their fire, that ſeveral battalions of the enemy were thrown into confuſion; the King however ſoon brought on warmer work; at the head

of the firſt line of his centre he began the attack; which was received with firmneſs. The Earl of Bury at the ſame time with the left, fell on the right of the French; for about an hour the ſucceſs of the day was doubtful; but the right of the Engliſh army then beginning the attack, threw the French into a little confuſion; but Charles flying with great celerity from his centre, repulſed the Duke of Devonſhire, and attacked him in his turn, drawing off a part of his centre to ſuſtain his left; the Duke repelled his attack, but it was renewed with ſuch vigour, that he found it neceſſary to ſend an Aid de Camp to the King for aſſiſtance. George drew twenty battalions from his centre, and all his horſe from his left. This was a moſt maſterly and rapid motion; juſt as the Duke was thinking of a retreat, the King came up at the head of his freſh troops: the field of battle was

now

now almoſt changed; the French had been ſo often repulſed in their attacks, that it was even dangerous to purſue their advantage after the great loſs they had ſuffered; but Charles, contrary to the advice of his Generals, renewed his attack after George was arrived. The French troops fatigued with fighting almoſt three hours, in a hot day, made but a feint impreſſion, the King eaſily repulſed them, and placing himſelf at the head of his cavalry, made a moſt furious attack on his almoſt defeated enemies; nothing reſiſted him, the whole French army was broke through in a moment; and the ſlaughter that enſued was terrible. While the King broke through every battalion of French, with the irreſiſtable fury of his cavalry; General Young brought up ſixty pieces of cannon, which plaid on their broken troops near an hour. All the efforts of

Charles were in vain; the battle was loſt beyond the power of recovery; and to complete the misfortunes of the French, their King, as he was endeavouring to rally his men, was killed by a cannon ball. The Earl of Bury, with twenty thouſand men purſued the flying enemy, and made a vaſt multitude of priſoners.

Never was any battle more critically won. The Engliſh army was on the point of being defeated, which would certainly have been its fate, had not the King recovered all, by one of the moſt maſterly ſtrokes of generalſhip recorded in hiſtory: never was there a braver ſoldier; or a more complete commander; both characters he equally diſplayed in this celebrated battle: he received a ſlight wound in his left arm; had three horſes killed under him; and during the whole action, expoſed his perſon

perſon in the hotteſt fire. In killed and wounded he loſt ſeven thouſand men, but what is remarkable, not one officer of great note. The French nation never ſuſtained a more terrible blow — never one more deciſive. Beſides the King they loſt thirty two thouſand men killed, nine thouſand wounded, and twelve thouſand priſoners; in all fifty-three thouſand, an amazing number; among whom were the Princes of Condé, and Charlerois of the blood royal; the Dukes of St. Omers, Rochufocault, Ventadour, Amiens, and D'elieú, many other Nobility of great rank; thirteen Lieutenant Generals, and five Major Generals; all killed. Among the priſoners were the Dukes of Bourdeaux, Rennis, St. Clair, D'Oyone; the Marſhal Swyvioné, and three Major Generals, beſides many others of rank. One hundred and fifty pieces of cannon; ſeventy mortars, and all the baggage of

the army, with drums, ſtandards, and colours without number.

But the prodigious conſequences of this victory beſt proved its deciſiveneſs. The road was open to Paris; George, at the head of his victorious army took it; his detatchments over-run the whole province of Orleanois, even to Nevers: himſelf made a triumphant entry into Paris, and Philip the new French King hardly reigned in his capital, before he was obliged to fly from it. All Picardé was immediately conquered; the Engliſh themſelves were amazed at the rapidity of their own ſucceſs. Montar, Sens, Troyes, and Auxerre, opened their gates to the Conqueror. The ſtrongeſt fortreſſes held out but a few days; ſo univerſal was the terror which ſpread over all France. They had no proſpect of relief, King Charles, who juſt

juſt before the battle of Alençon, which robbed him of his crown and his life, ſaw himſelf at the head of two hundred thouſand men, left a ſucceſſor who had not ten thouſand even about his own perſon; and yet half France was in his poſſeſſion; but the Engliſh proſecuted their ſucceſs with ſo much vigour, that every moment brought him tidings of their conqueſts.

The rapidity with which George followed his blow, ſurpriſed all Europe. By the beginning of Auguſt he was in the entire poſſeſſion of Normandy, Brittany, the whole province of Orleanois, the Iſle of France, Champagne, Picardé, and Flanders. He had ſmall detachments making important conqueſts in other provinces. The Duke of Devonſhire acted in Lorraine, the Earl of Bury in Burgundy, General Sommers

in Hainault, and General Villiers watched the motions of Philip, who had retired to Lyons. Thus the Engliſh were in poſſeſſion of near half France. Theſe wonderful ſucceſſes, while they called to mind the remote days of Edward the IIId. and Henry the Vth. yet totally eclipſed them; and though a very great ſhare of admiration was paid to the names of theſe celebrated heroes, a degree conſiderably higher attended the name of George.

This heroic Monarch (who was at Paris) found himſelf much diſordered after his late fatigues, his wound had not received ſufficient indulgence to complete a cure, ſo that his phyſicians by all means adviſed him to return for a ſhort time to England; and repoſe himſelf after the vaſt fatigues he had undergone. The King, who found himſelf very indifferent, followed their advice,

vice, and leaving the command in France to the Duke of Devonſhire, with orders to proſecute the war with the utmoſt vigour, he left that kingdom, and arrived at London the firſt of September.

CHAP. VII.

Foreign affairs.---State of Europe.---Treaty of Madrid.---Preparations in Great-Britain.---Parliament meets.---Negotiations. Junction of the King's troops.---Duke of Devonſhire conquers Flanders and Holland.---

GEORGE could not have left France at a more critical time. His prodigious ſucceſſes had kindled the jealouſy of ſeveral of his neighbours, who wiſhed to ſee the rapidity of his conqueſts

conqueſts ſtopped. A ſeries of victories had raiſed his character as a commander to an extreme high pitch; he poſſeſſed the reputation of not only being the greateſt General of his time, but even one of the moſt celebrated that ever exiſted. He was the ſovereign of a powerful kingdom, and was equally formidable, both by ſea and land. He had given France a terrible blow by one ſucceſsful battle, and bid fair to conquer the whole kingdom in another campaign; theſe circumſtances, at the ſame time that they raiſed the jealouſy of his neighbours, equally occaſioned a dread of his power: all wiſhed to clip his ſoaring wings, but no one ſingly dared to attempt it.

His old enemy, the Czar Peter was engaged in a ſecond war with the Turkiſh Emperor Bajazet, which had been carried on with various ſucceſs two campaigns;

paigns; and a late rebellion of the Danes, under Count Stormer, had obliged him to divide his land forces; yet engaged as he was, he was ready to come into any alliance againſt the King of Great-Britain: indeed, he could no longer be the enemy he formerly proved; for the Ruſſian fleet, as its riſe was ſwift, ſo its declenſion was rapid; and powerful as Peter had lately been at ſea, yet he was now by no means in a condition of making any naval oppoſition of conſequence to the fleets of England.

Charles the IIId. who at this time ſat on the throne of Spain, was a weak Prince, but governed by the Count de Leon, a Miniſter of great abilities and unbounded ambition. From the moment George diſtinguiſhed himſelf on the continent of Europe, he became his enemy profeſſed, and by his intrigues, endeavoured to unite the whole force of

Europe

Europe againſt him. He had ſupplyed the late King of France with immenſe ſums of money, he had put the whole force of Spain in motion, and waited only for a proper opportunity to declare openly againſt the King of Great-Britain. Spain was in a flouriſhing condition; the acquiſition of Portugal and Brazil was very conſiderable; and having been ſo fortunate as to poſſeſs a ſucceſſion of able miniſters, her revenues were in good order, and her forces well diſciplined and numerous: ſhe had beſides a fleet of forty ſail of the line ready manned, beſides frigates.

Italy at this time enjoyed a profound peace, the Kings of Sicily and Venice, having for ſome time compromiſed all their diſputes. The Emperor Frederick was in cloſe alliance with George, and the German Princes neutral, but ready to let their troops to whoever would hire

hire them. The Swiſs cantons was alſo in friendſhip with Great-Britain (s).

Such was the ſtate of Europe, when the battle of Alençon ſtruck a terror into moſt of its Sovereigns. The Count de Leon had ſometime before entered into a negotiation with the Czar, to form an alliance againſt George, This battle haſtened their proceedings, and a treaty was ſoon agreed on between them, for the protection of Philip, and ſigned at Madrid. Peter engaged to join the Spaniſh fleet with ſixty ſail of the line, and ſend ten thouſand foot and five thouſand horſe to aſſiſt Philip. Spain was to march an army of ſixty thouſand men into France, to act againſt the Engliſh. In return, Philip engaged as ſoon as George was drove out of his dominions, to aſſiſt Charles with all his

(s) Stephenſon, vol. 1. p. 63.

forces,

forces, to recover Milan from the King of Sicily. The laſt article was ſecret; but his Sicilian Majeſty found means to come at the deſigns of his enemies. The firſt of October the King of Spain declared war againſt Great-Britain, and on the ninth he was followed by the Czar.

George in the mean time was not dilatory in oppoſing both preparations, and negotiations againſt thoſe of his enemies. He no ſooner arrived in England, than he diſpatched orders to Milford, for a ſquadron of twenty ſhips of the line, and fourteen frigates, to be equipped with all expedition; another of ten ſail, and eleven frigates, at Portſmouth; twenty line of battle ſhips, and nine frigates, at Hull; fifteen ſail were almoſt ready for ſea at Plymouth; nine at Cork in Ireland, and five at Lynn; in all, ſeventy-nine ſail of the line, beſides

ſides frigates: he had a ſquadron of fifteen ſail off Toulon, under Admiral Tonſon; and ten in the Channel, commanded by Philips. The Duke of Grafton haſted down to Hull, to quicken the preparations for fitting out the grand ſquadron, which was to ſail for the Baltick, from thence. Orders were given for the fleets at Plymouth, Portſmouth, and Lynn, with the ſquadron in the Channel, to rendezvous at Hull, as faſt as they were got ready for ſervice, that a powerful fleet might ſail from thence early in the ſpring, before a Ruſſian one could come out of the Baltick. Never were ſuch prodigious preparations carryed on in a more ſpirited manner. New ſhips were building at all the ports of Great-Britain and Ireland, and even in the immenſe colonies of America; four ſhips of 40 guns each, were on the ſtocks at Quebeck; ten at Boſton, and five at Philadelphia. Nor was the King's attention

attention only carryed towards his navy; twenty new regiments were raiſed in Great-Britain, and eight in Ireland. All ſorts of military preparations went on with equal vigour.

The parliament meeting the beginning of the winter, the ſeſſion was opened with a very ſenſible ſpeech from the throne, in which his Majeſty laid before them the ſtate of affairs, both at home and abroad; explained the neceſſity of proſecuting the war in the moſt vigorous manner, and repelling all attacks that might be made by the members of the alliance which was formed againſt him. There were two parties at this time in the parliament, the one was for making a peace as ſoon as poſſible, to avoid a war with all Europe; theſe urged, that the conqueſts his Majeſty had made in France, however glorious they might ſeem, were certainly contrary to the intereſt

intereſt of the kingdom, as it would be highly abſurd to think of keeping them, even if it was in our power; this was their chief argument, and the Duke of Bedford, who was in diſgrace, was at their head; but as the oppoſite party, who were entirely guided by the pleaſure of the King (ſo great was his reputation, and ſo univerſal was the good opinion entertained of him) were much the ſtrongeſt, after a few debates, it was determined to addreſs his Majeſty, and to thank him for his deſign of proſecuting the war with vigour; and before they were prorogued, they granted him thirteen millions, every ſhilling of which was raiſed by taxes within the year, to the ſurpriſe of all Europe. So extenſive was the Britiſh trade at this time.

His Majeſty's negotiations were as ſpirited as his military preparations: he ſent

ſent the Earl of Cheſterfield his Ambaſſador to the Emperor Frederick; the Duke of Marlborough to the King of Sicily; and Mr. Wharton to the ſtates of Swiſſerland. A treaty was ſoon ſigned between himſelf, the Emperor, and his Sicilian Majeſty; in oppoſition to the alliance: Frederick engaged to attack the Ruſſians, if they entered the Empire, and George took ten thouſand of his men into his pay; the King of Sicily furniſhed him with ten thouſand more at his own expence, on condition, that they ſhould be recalled if that Monarch was attacked himſelf, and that the King of Great-Britain ſhould ſend an army of twenty thouſand men to his aſſiſtance: moreover, George hired eight thouſand Bavarians, and ſix thouſand Swiſs infantry. Such were the meaſures this vigilant Monarch took to repulſe the attempts of his powerful enemies.

No ſooner was theſe treaties ſigned, than the ten thouſand troops furniſhed by the King of Sicily, marched from the neighbourhood of Turin, and croſsing the Alps near Bornico, joined the Swiſs troops, and remained encamped till the Imperialiſts and Bavarians arrived, when they formed an army of thirty-four thouſand men. The King ſent the Duke of Devonſhire orders to detach the Earl of Bury with five thouſand men, to put himſelf at their head, and lead them into France. This was no eaſy taſk. Philip, who had recruited his army, and was re-enforced with fifteen thouſand Spaniards, laid in his way to intercept. Franche Compté, part of Lorraine, and Alſace, were in his poſſeſſion; ſo that the road to Swiſſerland was entirely blocked up, but this able General, deceived the French King (or

(or rather the Marſhal Siletta, who had the command) and making a flying march, paſſed by his army, and entered Swiſſerland in ſafety. The allied troops were in the neighbourhood of Zurick, Bury placed himſelf at their head, entered Franche Compté without oppoſition; Siletta was too weak, though far ſuperior in numbers, to prevent him. Perceiving the weakneſs of the enemy, he laid ſiege to Beſançon; expecting an eaſy conqueſt, but a brave Governour commanding in it, he was obliged to open the trenches againſt it.

In the mean time, his Grace of Devonſhire was not idle; he had collected forty thouſand men to drive Philip from Lyons, and and attack that city; but an unforeſeen event changed his deſign. General Sommers, who commanded ten thouſand men in Hainault, was unfortunately

tunately ſurpriſed in a dark night, by a ſmall body of the enemies troops in that province, and the Frenchman purſuing his blow, was attended with ſome ſucceſs: this affair called off the attention of the Duke from the ſouthern parts, and pointed out the neceſſity of firſt reducing all the northern provinces. Inſtead therefore of marching to Lyons, he moved with his army towards Flanders. The French army although elated with their ſucceſs, did not dare to ſtand their ground: the Commander very prudently gave up all thoughts of keeping the field againſt the Duke, and conjecturing that his Grace would not make ſo long a march, without attempting to reduce the country, he divided his troops into ſmall parties, and threw them into the ſtrong towns in the Flemiſh provinces. The ſea coaſt was already in the hands of the Engliſh, quite to Blankenburgh, with the whole pro-

vince of Artois. Devonſhire being joined by General Sommers and his ſcattered troops, divided his army into two parts; with one, Sommers advanced towards Namur, with deſign to take that City, and afterwards to reduce all the adjacent provinces. The Duke at the head of the other, made a flying march to Antwerp, and ſurpriſed that city. His detachments by the way conquered all Dutch Brabant, and Dutch Flanders: this country, ſo famous in hiſtory, was no longer the ſtrongeſt ſpot in Europe; many of that vaſt liſt of fortreſſes, which in the great Marlborough's time, took ſo much time to maſter, now opened their gates to the Duke of Devonſhire on the firſt ſummons.---Having ſecured the provinces in his rear, he advanced into Liege, and coaſting along the Meuſe, took Nimeguen; nothing now oppoſed the moſt rapid conqueſts; whole provinces were over-

over-run in a few days. The French garriſons in Holland were weak to the laſt degree, and the Dutch, whoſe ſpirits were ſunk in their ſlavery, had no inclination to aſſiſt their cruel maſters. Rotterdam, the Hague, Utrecht, and even Amſterdam itſelf, opened its gates to the conqueror. In one word, all the Seven Provinces were in the hands of the Engliſh by the end of the campaign.

General Sommers had no leſs ſucceſs in his expedition; Namur ſurrendered in five days, and Luxemburg, part of Champagne, and Lorraine, were immediately conquered. This prodigious ſucceſs, ſtruck a damp into George's enemies; while Philip was lieing inactive, and waiting for reinforcements, the Engliſh had conquered an immenſe territory, and were every day extending their poſſeſſions. The Duke leaving

twenty thouſand men under Sommers, to take up their quarters in the conquered country, returned with the reſt of his army to winter in Paris.

CHAP. VIII.

Naval victories.---Duke of Parma marches into France.- -Motions of the Britiſh and French armies.----Celebrated march.---- Philip arrives at Paris.---Battle of Eſpalien. --Battle of Paris.---The conqueſt of France.---Conqueſt of Mexico.--Philippine Iſlands reduced.----Duke of Devonſhire enters Spain.---General peace.----George crowned King of France.

THE enterpriſing diſpoſition of George, would not ſuffer him to defer opening the campaign the moment he was able: in the beginning of April *, the Duke of Grafton ſailed

* 1920.

from

from Hull with ſixty ſhips of the line, and thirty-five frigates, to the mouth of the Baltick; he ſoon learned that the Ruſſian fleet was not even collected: thirty ſail of the line were anchored off Stockholm, in expectation of being joined by twenty more from Peterſburg, when they were to rendezvous at Copenhagen, where twenty ſail were ready for the ſea. The Duke no ſooner gained this intelligence, than he immediately entered the Baltick, and ſteering towards Stockholm, deſigned to fall on the Ruſſian fleet before they had advice of his approach. He executed his ſcheme with all imaginable ſucceſs. In a dark night, he ſent in ſix fire ſhips among their ſquadron. The effect was terrible, and fatal to the enemy; eleven ſhips of the line were burnt, and ſeven frigates; four ſunk, and ſeven taken: the reſt were greatly damaged and totally diſperſed.

This deciſive blow, which at once diſabled the enemy from appearing at ſea during the war, was a thunderbolt to Peter, who was then with his army, over-running Denmark, which had rebelled againſt him. However, rather to make a parade of power, than in hopes of retrieving the misfortune, he gave orders that the loſs ſhould be inſtantly repaired; and all endeavours ſeemed to be directed to raiſing his navy, but it was in vain: the Duke of Grafton following his blow, ſailed to Peterſburg; he bombarded the city three days, to the utter ruin of every thing but the fortifications: and by a bold and well conducted attempt, he landed three thouſand men to attack the fort that defended the baſon; it was carried in a moment; and this glorious expedition ended with burning the whole Ruſſian fleet of twenty ſail, after a defence, indeed

indeed which did great honour to the enemies courage. After two ſuch deciſive ſtrokes, the preſence of the duke was no longer neceſſary in the Baltick; he left it, and ſetting ſail for England, anchored at Hull with his victorious fleet.

The King with his own hand wrote a moſt friendly letter to the Duke, thanking him for his great and eminent ſervices, particularly in this ſignal ſucceſs: he ſoon after ordered him to ſail for the coaſt of Spain, and gave him orders to annoy the enemy in whatever manner ſhould ſeem beſt to himſelf; he was limited only to the coaſt of that kingdom: his Majeſty before he left England, gave orders for a fleet of ten ſail of the line, and eight frigates, to ſail for the Weſt Indies, to proſecute the war in that part of the world; they were to convoy tranſports with three

thouſand infantry on board, who were deſigned to attack Mexico, under General Cannon; they were to land at New Orleans: the fleet was commanded by Admiral Newport. Another ſquadron was ordered to be got ready with all expedition for the Eaſt Indies, to attack the Spaniſh poſſeſſions in that quarter; under Admiral Clinton. The preparations of the King had been prodigious; yet ſhips were ſtill wanting; and were fitting out every day. It was indeed ſurpriſing how this active Monarch could give his attention equally to every object of ſuch a prodigious extenſive war.

Before the Duke of Grafton had deſtroyed the Ruſſian fleet, George was landed in France; he carried with him eight regiments of foot, and three of dragoons, who had been but lately raiſed. He found the Duke of Devonſhire drawing his troops out of their winter

winter quarters, and collecting them near Nevers; this buſineſs the King haſtened with all expedition, for he deſigned to take the field before the Spaniſh army under the Duke de Lerma had joined Philip; it conſiſted of fifty thouſand men, and was in full march for France. Philip himſelf had ſpared no pains to augment his troops: he had thrown ſtrong garriſons into all his fortreſſes, and his army deſigned for the field, amounted to ſeventy thouſand men; which he was collecting with all expedition. The King of England by the latter end of April, found himſelf at the head of ſixty thouſand conquering troops; he had beſides twenty thouſand in garriſons, twenty thouſand in Flanders under Sommers, and five thouſand encamped near Saintes, commanded by General Young, who watched ten thouſand of Philip's troops, that had been

detached to penetrate into Orleanois, but without effect.

Dijon, Maſcon, and Bourg, were the only places in Burgundy, in the poſſeſſion of the French. George detached ten thouſand men under General Cleveland, to reduce thoſe fortreſſes, which it was expected would prove an eaſy taſk, as the two firſt were cut off from all communication with Philip's army; after performing this ſervice, he was to join the King in the neighbourhood of Lyons. His Majeſty the third of May left Nevers, and marched to Moulins; the Governour du Roquet, deſerted it at his approach; the King leaving a garriſon in it, directed his march to Bourbon, with deſign to reduce all the places on the Loire; and joining General Cleveland lay ſiege to Lyons, which he made no doubt would draw Philip to a battle, as the loſs of that city would be

be fatal to his affairs (t). This excellent plan ſhowed the genius of the King, and the execution was equal to the deſign. By a happy expedition, which always threw his enemy into confuſion, George became maſter of Digoin, Semeur, Boiſſy, and a ſtrong fort which commanded an important paſs at Jarare, which opened to him the road to Lyons. General Cleveland had met with equal ſucceſs in his expedition. Philip detached two thouſand men to oppoſe him, but the Engliſh General, by making a flying march, deceived him, and conquered the three towns almoſt as ſoon as he had attacked them: having thus performed the chief end of his expedition, he marched to join his maſter with little or no oppoſition; and effected it with as little loſs. The French were but ſpectators of their enemy's ſucceſs.

(t) Du Chanq. tom. 6. p. 47.

The King of France, who was guided in all his military operations by Marſhall Siletta, was terrified at the ſudden approach of his victorious enemy. The Duke de Lerma had not yet entered France; he was perplexed what courſe to take: determined not to hazard a battle, he was in great fear of the King's attacking Lyons: there was in that city a garriſon of eight thouſand men, yet he depended but little on their defence. If he encamped under its walls, he knew it would be ſafe, but then it would be in George's power to cut off his junction with the Spaniſh army. On the contrary, if he marched towards Spain to join it, Lyons he gave up as loſt, and perhaps other places of great importance might partake its fate. Thus confuſed between different opinions, he at laſt was guided by his General, who urged him to entrench himſelf ſtrongly under

under the walls of Lyons; as George he ſuppoſed through his impetuoſity, would aim at taking him and his army priſoners; and would neglect to cut off his communication with Spain.

George, whoſe camp was near Boiſſy, immediately perceived the overſight of the enemy; he took no time to ſpend in tedious conſideration, but ſeeing that the whole fortune of the war depended on his preventing the junction of the French and Spaniards; he determined to exert every effort to cut off all their communications. There was the greater neceſſity for expedition, as the Duke de Lerma had entered France, and was arrived at Foix. The ſcheme was difficult to execute, for all the country before him was full of ſtrong towns with garriſons in them. His plan was to march to St. Flour, but Riom, Clermont, and Iſſiorre, lay ſo near his road, that it would

would be extremely difficult to paſs, without reducing them; without loſing a moment's time, therefore, he made a flying march to Riom, and preſenting himſelf before it, required the governour to ſurrender immediately at diſcretion. Terrified at George's approach, he ſurrendered without firing a gun; but his cowardice however coſt him dear, for he was afterwards ſhot for his behaviour, by the command of his maſter. George throwing a garriſon into Riom, he marched with no leſs expedition to Clermont, and expected the ſame ſpeedy ſucceſs, but the Prince of that name being Lord of the town, commanded in it, and returned a haughty anſwer to George: his Majeſty immediately ſurrounded the town, and at night about ten o'clock, made three violent attacks on it in different quarters: never was action more obſtinately fought, but ſome ſcaling ladders breaking

ing at the principal attack, and the bravery of the French, throwing his men into confuſion, he was obliged to draw off his troops with the loſs of two thouſand five hundred men. The King, who expected that Philip would march with all expedition to join the Spaniſh army in time; reſolved to loſe none, and quitting the attack on Clermont, determined, as Riom was in his poſſeſſion, to paſs on without it. His Majeſty uſing the ſame expedition, advanced to Iſſiorre, which to his utter aſtoniſhment, he found deſerted; purſuing his march therefore, he arrived at Flour, and was hardly in ſight of the town, before he ordered it to be attacked; the fury of this attack, which was made at once in five places, only ſeemed to raiſe the courage of the Governour; but nothing could reſiſt the Engliſh: after four hours hot action, they carried it by ſtorm.

This

This celebrated march, which was one of the moſt expeditious ever known, was performed in eight days; a rapidity that was aſtoniſhing. The King, by ſuch prodigious celerity, however, prevented the two armies of French and Spaniards from joining. He expected indeed, that Philip would take a different courſe as faſt as poſſible to effect the junction: but herein he was miſtaken; Philip, or rather Siletta, no ſooner ſaw how far George had got the ſtart of him, than he perceived the extreme difficulty of joining the Spaniards; and knowing that the operation of the whole campaign muſt be greatly retarded by waiting for the Duke of Lerma, he determined to make a reſolute puſh, to recover the capital, and the northern provinces of his kingdom: the attempt muſt neceſſarily be attended with great difficulty,

difficulty, but he was nevertheleſs determined in his reſolution.

Had it been poſſible, he would have taken the ſtraight road to Paris, but the Engliſh poſſeſſed a multitude of garriſons in his way, that rendered ſuch a march impracticable; therefore breaking up his camp with very little noiſe, he took the route of Bourg, deſigning to make a great detour through Franche Compté and Champagne. Bourg ſurrendered without a blow; from thence he marched with great expedition to Dole; his plan in this march was the ſame as that of George in his ſouthern one; he determined to leave every town behind him that made any great reſiſtance; the governour of Dole refuſed to ſurrender, and Philip deſpairing of taking it by ſtorm, paſſed on to Langres: the officer who commanded there, had not the ſame courage, but left the town an eaſy conqueſt

conqueſt to the French; Sezane gave him as little trouble; from whence, after a very rapid march, he arrived at Paris, which was never able to reſiſt an army.

Nothing could raiſe the ſpirits of his ſubjects more than this ſtroke; he expected to be ſoon maſter of all the northern provinces, as he depended on the Duke of Lerma's finding the King of England employment in the ſouth; but we ſhall leave him here a little while, to take a view of the operations between George and the Spaniards. The Duke had advanced to Thouloufe, and hearing that Philip was marching to Paris, he exclaimed againſt this perfidy of the French in the higheſt terms. He reproached them with breaking their engagements, as they were to join him, and to act in concert with his army. The Spaniſh miniſter was no leſs loud in his

his complaints; but it was too late for Philip to change his plan: and the Duke with all poſſible caution advanced to Thouloufe: he knew the genius of the man that commanded againſt him, and was determined to leave nothing to fortune; to hazard no action of conſequence; but to keep advancing, and find the King of England in employment, while Philip was over-running the northern provinces. His plan was the moſt prudent he could have choſen, and he had a genius proper to execute it. When he arrived at that city, he learnt of George's being at Mende, upon which, he ſtill advanced to Alby and Rodez, and from the ſituation of the King, was in hopes of being able to make a flying march, and yet join Philip.

But the King of Great-Britain knew it was impoſſible for the Duke to take advantage

advantage of his motion, from the ſituation of his out poſts, the paſſes of which were all in his command. Lerma was at Eſpalion, and juſt as his army was beginning to move, one of his Aides de Camp brought him intelligence, that the King was at Albrac, in his front, but four miles from him. Alarmed at this news, and dreading a battle, he inſtantly ordered his troops to arms, and they moved forming into their camp, at the ſame time receiving orders to raiſe new entrenchments and redoubts. The King had made this ſudden and rapid motion with deſign to bring on a battle, judging it a favourable opportunity when the Spaniards were on the march: however, finding that the Duke was taking every precaution that was poſſible, he gave over the deſign, and the two armies continued in the ſame poſition a week, during which time, George was inceſſantly attacking the out parties and

and convoys of the Duke, and trying to provoke him to a battle; but it was in vain, for the cautious Spaniard kept close in his camp, and very quietly saw the King victorious in every skirmish.

But this *petite guerre* was the King's aversion, though he understood it well; he loved hazardous actions in which fortune played a part; he was tired if a continued series of battles; rapid marches, or towns stormed, did not succeed quickly to each other; never more pleased, or more calm, than in the midst of all. It may be supposed this disposition made him long for an engagement with the Spaniards, and form a variety of projects to bring one about, but knowing the prudent enemy he had to deal with, he determined to surprise him by night. Previous to the execution of his project, he had detached parties to secure all the country round him.

him. The Earl of Bury, with twenty thouſand men had taken Orilac, Figiac, Cahors, and Ville Franché, ſo that all the country behind him was ſecure; and the enemy poſſeſſed the route by which they advanced. Having prepared every thing, by calling in all his detachments, the better to deceive the Duke, he gave out, that he ſhould march immediately to ſuccour Rouen, which was beſieged by the French King; he accordingly provided a vaſt quantity of baggage, ammunition, and artillery waggons; preſſed all the horſes of the country into his ſervice, and in ſhort, gave directions in ſuch a manner, that every one fully believed he was on the point of departing.

When the day came on which he meditated the attack, (the 23d of June) the troops were all directed to wait for orders; and it was expected that the

next

next morning they would begin their march; but about ten o'clock they were all drawn up in order of battle; and George dividing them into two bodies, placed one under the command of the Duke of Devonſhire, and headed the other himſelf; the Duke was to make a little detour of a mile and a half, through ſome woods, which led to the French camp, while the King himſelf took the ſame direction through the plain: both parties were to meet and make the attack in concert. Nothing could be executed in a better order; the troops to their great ſurpriſe, filed off without beat of drum, or ſound of trumpet; and by half an hour after eleven arrived at the very verge of the enemies camp.

The King joining his forces, and giving orders to the Duke, the Earl of Bury, and General Young, who were to

to command the three attacks, while himſelf overlooked all, at the head of a choſen body of troops; directed them to advance, with orders not to fire a muſket, till they were in the midſt of the camp. The three diviſions moved at the ſame inſtant; and had advanced a conſiderable way in the camp before they were diſcovered, the Spaniards being all aſleep in their tents: a grenadier attempting to knock down a Sentinel, was reſiſted, where upon he fired at him; and the noiſe immediately rouſed ſome contiguous tents, who upon this, ſpread a general alarm, and ran half naked to their arms, but found the Engliſh advancing to the very centre of their camp; they attempted to reſiſt, but were broke and diſperſed in an inſtant: the Duke of Lerma himſelf, by this time was at the head of a confuſed party, and attempting to form them; but five and twenty field pieces, which the

the King had brought with him, were placed ſo advantageouſly, that every attempt of ſuch a nature was ineffectual. The Duke flew like lightening through his camp, to bring his men to ſome order; all the Spaniſh Generals exerted themſelves, but their ſtand was momentary; terror ſtalked before the Engliſh wherever they moved — nothing could reſiſt the impetuoſity of their attacks; all was one ſcene of horror and confuſion, the enemy were every where diſperſed in the utmoſt confuſion about their camp, and cut to pieces in regiments: to complete the carnage, the Earl of Bury turned the cannon of three redoubts on the flying troops, mowed down in ſquadrons. By break of day the action was over, the whole Spaniſh army was totally diſperſed, with incredible ſlaughter; and the loſs of their General, who was killed, in the confu-

ſion that neceſſarily attended ſuch an action.

Never victory was more complete; twenty-two thouſand Spaniards were killed, and ten thouſand taken priſoners; all their camp baggage and artillery were taken; ſtandards, colours, drums, and other trophies without number, beſides their military cheſt. They ſuffered great loſs in their retreat, ſo that out of fifty thouſand who came out, ſcarce ten thouſand returned to their own country. This deciſive victory was a fatal ſtroke to Spain; and almoſt ruined Philip's affairs: the news of it was as a thunderbolt to him. After gaining ſo great a victory in ſuch advantageous circumſtances, and with the moſt trifling loſs, there was nothing to ſtop the rapidity of the King's conqueſts. He divided his army into three diviſions, and all Languedoc, Provence, Dauphiné, Gaſcogné,

Gaſcogné, Guienne, Quercy, Perigort, Limoſin, and Saintonge, were conquered; comprehending near four hundred miles of territory. But it is time to take a view of Philip's operations, which will exhibit a very different picture.

He was no ſooner maſter of Paris, than he marched into Normandy, and laid ſiege to Rouen, expecting to be maſter of it in a few days; but his hopes of ſuch ſpeedy ſucceſs were blaſted, when he found the brave Governor, General Stanley, returned a haughty anſwer to his demand of ſurrendering; but as it was abſolutely neceſſary that that city ſhould be taken before he attempted any thing farther, and as no time was to be loſt, he opened nine batteries againſt it at once, in expectation of obliging the Governor to ſurrender by the fury of his fire; but after a week's dreadful cannonade, he was not nearer

his point than when he firſt began the attack; with much vexation he was at laſt obliged to open the trenches: and a ſlow ſiege could not but be fatal to his affairs; yet he truſted to the Duke of Lerma's keeping George engaged till he was maſter of it. In this ſituation, he continued his approaches for ſome time, but ſaw little proſpect of his being able to carry the city. At laſt advice was brought, that the King of England had totally defeated the Spaniards: a terrible blow to Philip: he was at firſt ſtruck dumb with ſurpriſe; but recovering himſelf, ordered the ſiege to be raiſed immediately, and falling back to Paris, entrenched his army under the walls of his capital. Every day brought him accounts of whole provinces over-run by George, and ſeeing that his affairs were on the brink of ruin, he determined to ſue for peace; and accordingly ſent two ambaſſadors to the Britiſh Monarch; but

he

he was anſwered, "That it was now "too late for a peace—That France "had been the aggreſſor in the war—— "and that he muſt expect no other "terms but thoſe his ſword procured "him."

His Majeſty quickly followed this anſwer with all his forces, he left Rodez the beginning of July, and moved with great expedition towards Paris; in fifteen days he reached its neighbourhood, and encamping at Dampierre, went immediately to reconnoitre Philip's entrenchments. Siletta had done every thing in his power to make them as ſtrong as poſſible; but their extent rendered them weak, although they contained eighty thouſand men, entrenched to the teeth. George drawing nearer,—determined to attack them without delay; he pointed out three places to his Generals, at which to make the princi-

pal efforts. One he commanded himſelf; and the Duke of Devonſhire, and the Earl of Bury the other two; the prodigious boldneſs of the attempt made ſome adviſe the King againſt it; but his ardent temper made him reject their opinion: it was expected, that this action would be one of the bloodieſt ever fought. The King made the attack at three o'clock in the morning, of the 24th of July, but it could be hardly called a battle; in half an hour, the whole French army gave way: diſpirited by ſo many defeats, and engaging in expectation of being conquered; inſtead of fighting like men, they fled like ſheep. Philip, with the Dauphin his brother on one ſide of him, and Siletta on the other, attempted to rally his men, but it was impoſſible, and in the flight he was taken priſoner by the Earl of Bury, to whom he delivered his ſword: the Dauphin was alſo taken; and Marſhal

Siletta.

Siletta. The loſs of the French amounted to about fifteen thouſand men, in killed and priſoners, and the whole army was totally diſperſed.

This victory threw the whole kingdom of France into George's poſſeſſion; he had now no long marches to make, his enemy had no reſource. All was loſt. From the frontiers of Spain, to the extremities of Holland, the whole territory was in his hands. The King of Spain, or rather his haughty miniſter, was ſeiſed with terror; they repented having provoked a Prince, whom they were in fear would have a ſevere revenge. All Europe trembled at the name of George; and it was next to evident, that he was now become invincible. But the ſame ſucceſs attended his arms in the remoteſt corners of the world.

We before mentioned the Duke of Grafton's ſailing with his victorious fleet to the coaſt of Spain; his Grace's actions on that ſtation were not ſo brilliant as thoſe in the Baltick; but almoſt equally ruinous to the Spaniards. Too weak to face the Engliſh ſquadron, the Spaniſh fleet kept in port. Thirty ſail of the line, beſides frigates, and other ſhips, were at anchor in the harbour of Cadiz. The Duke finding there was no probability of the enemy's venturing out; formed the deſign of attacking the forts of the city, and burning the Spaniſh fleet. There was a vaſtneſs in all this nobleman's ſchemes, that ſhowed a great and daring genius. During the reign of George III. Admirals watched the fleets of their enemies, and ſpent whole months ineffectually, and yet that was a brilliant period. But now in the age of George VI. the Britiſh Admirals did not

not watch, but force the ports of their enemies. The Duke executed his plan with great ſucceſs; with the loſs of only one ſhip, he burnt nine ſail of the line, fifteen frigates, and ſixty-four merchantmen. He then entered the Straits, and falling in with a ſmall Spaniſh ſquadron, going from Alicant to Gibraltar, to take in their guns, he took four ſail of the line, and three frigates, diſperſing the reſt.

In the Weſt Indies, Admiral Newport met with yet greater ſucceſs: having landed General Cannon, and his men at New Orleans, he ſailed to the iſland of Cuba, and without any aſſiſtance reduced it; that immenſe iſland once more came under the dominion of Great-Britain, and with it a prodigious ſugar trade. The General having collected the troops of the colony of Louiſiana, to the amount of fifteen thouſand

men, began a very long march towards Mexico: but as the country through which he proceeded was tolerably well cultivated, and having the advantage of conveying his artillery, &c. by ſeveral noble rivers, he ſoon entered the Spaniſh colonies; where the weakneſs of their government was very viſible; he met with no reſiſtance, but proceeding on his march, he arrived at the opulent city of Mexico. It ſurrendered on the firſt ſummons, and in three months he conquered the whole country, together with the iſthmus acroſs from La Vera Cruz, to Acapulco: nothing could be more fatal to the Spaniards than the loſs of theſe immenſe regions: the trade of them was a great and valuable increaſe to that of Great-Britain; but theſe operations were performed in concert with another in the Eaſt Indies.——The end of Admiral Clinton's expedition was the conqueſt of the Philippine Iſlands. This

fleet

fleet being r ndezvouſed at Batavia, was join:d by fifteen ſail of the line, of the company's ſhips, and ten thouſand of their land forces; he proceeded immediately for the object of his enterpriſe: ſo great a force in that part of the world could meet with little or no reſiſtance; Manilla was taken after an attack of two hours, and all the iſlands were ſucceſſively reduced to obedience. The government of them his Majeſty entruſted to the company. The acceſſion of trade was immenſe, which theſe diſtant conqueſts concurred to command; a vaſt and open trade which was carried on, almoſt immediately, from Acapulco to Manilla. In ſhort, all the riches of the Spaniards, or their moſt valuable riches, their trade, (for the mines of Mexico were exhauſted long before) fell into the hands of the Engliſh. But events were happening in Europe, which drew the attention of all the world.

The King of Great-Britain no longer ſeeing an enemy in the field, entered Paris with great pomp, and placed his head quarters in the Louvre; he ſent the Duke of Devonſhire at the head of forty thouſand men to attack Spain, and diſtributed thirty thouſand more in garriſons throughout France, the remainder of his army which amounted to thirty-two thouſand, was part encamped in the neighbourhood of Paris, and part diſtributed in that city: he had beſides twenty thouſand more in Holland, under General Sommers. He left this army in the ſame poſition, on account of the neighbourhood of the Ruſſians; the Czar Peter was yet engaged in a ſkirmiſhing tedious war, with ſmall parties of the Danes; whom he found it impoſſible to quell at once; beſides he could uſe but a ſmall part of his power, for he was at war with the Turks, and finding

finding ſo much buſineſs on his hands, was utterly unable to attack George.

The Duke of Devonſhire had no ſooner paſſed the Appenines, than he broke into Catalonia, and over-running the whole province, ſat down before Barcelona. All Spain was alarmed: terrified at the attack, the haughty miniſter himſelf ſaw the immediate neceſſity of appeaſing George. He ſent Ambaſſadors to Paris, to ſue for peace, who met with no very favourable reception; they made many propoſals which the King rejected; at laſt, George in a memorial, informed their court, that he would make peace on no other terms than the following, 1. That the King of Spain ſhall cede all the conqueſts of the Engliſh in the Eaſt and Weſt-Indies to Great-Britain, as an indemnification for the expences of the war. 2. That the King of Spain ſhall acknowledge the

King

King of Great-Britain, King of France. 3. That the King of Great-Britain ſhall relinquiſh his conqueſts in Catalonia, in conſideration of the King of Spain's ceding the iſland of Sardinia to Philip of France, which he ſhall enjoy for ever, with the title of King. For ſome time the Court of Madrid refuſed to accede to theſe conditions, but finding the King's determination fixed; and Barcelona in the Duke of Devonſhire's poſſeſſion,. and dreading to ſee George at the head of his army in Spain; they at laſt agreed to them. The Czar Peter, and Philip were both invited to accede to the treaty, and the latter had his liberty promiſed him, and the iſland of Sardinia if he did; the difference that ſubſiſted between Great-Britain and Ruſſia, did not prove the leaſt obſtacle; and Philip tired out with ill fortune, and ſeeing the impoſſibility of recovering either his

kingdom

kingdom or his liberty, agreed to the conditions preſcribed by George. An Engliſh fleet wafted him, his brother, and many of the French nobility to the iſland of Sardinia, which he took poſſeſſion of. The King of Great-Britain generouſly made him a preſent of fifty thouſand pounds to ſettle his court, and treated him during his captivity, with all the politeneſs imaginable. —— The peace was no ſooner ſigned, than it was proclaimed at London and Paris, and his Majeſty was crowned King of France, at Rheims, the 16th of November, 1920, before an immenſe concourſe of Britiſh, and French nobility, &c. And leaving the Duke of Devonſhire to command in that kingdom; in December, he embarked at Calais, and arrived in England.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

State of the kingdom.---The parliament meets. ---Arts, ſciences, and literature.---Academy.---Univerſity.---Gardens of Stanley. ---George VI. *continues to render his kingdom both flouriſhing and formidable.*

AFTER ſuch great fatigue as the King had ſuffered in the laſt campaign; it may be ſuppoſed that he longed to enjoy a ſituation of peace and tranquillity. And it is very remarkable, that no man ever knew better how to taſte the hurry and noiſe of war, or the eaſe of retirement. He was equally calculated for both. But he was too good a politician to diſarm himſelf as ſoon as the peace was ſigned; a conduct which has often been fatal to conquerors: never were meaſures taken with greater

greater prudence, to ſecure poſſeſſion of the kingom he had conquered; he knew that all Europe looked at his victories with the utmoſt jealouſy, and ſickened at the verdure of his laurels: he was fully perſuaded, that the late peace had only given time to his enemies to prepare more effectually for a freſh war: the Spaniſh Monarch, at once inveterate, and formidable, he foreſaw would aim at a ſecond alliance againſt him. Therefore as his ſituation was ſo critical, he determined to leave as little as poſſible to chance; but keep himſelf always ready for action. This plan was moſt eaſily executed; for although Great-Britain ſtill felt the burthen of a prodigious national debt, yet the parliament granted him very ample ſupplies; both to carry on the war in France, and to build new ſhips, repair others, to ſink docks, and make harbours; ſuch uſeful ſervices had been fully voted. The ſeſſion which met

met this winter was equally liberal; and that liberality was to their own honour, and the ſecurity of the nation: they had the higheſt opinion of the King; an opinion not founded on a ſudden liking, nor a wild enthuſiaſtic confidence; but was grounded on his admirable character, and the conſtant experience the whole nation had of his firmneſs, integrity, and love of his people. Theſe virtues were diffuſed through all the parts of his character; no wonder, that a wiſe and generous people, ſhould love and revere a ſovereign, whoſe whole life was conducted on the principles of honour. His parliament well knew that he could aſk nothing, which it was not their intereſt to grant. The King's deſigns on France, indeed, had raiſed ſome heats in the Houſe of Commons; but theſe were all blown over: the vaſt ſplendor of ſucceſs, reconciled every mind to the meaſure; and what had

had no little influence, was, the œconomy of the King; they found, that the ſupplies they granted were applied with the utmoſt fidelity to the uſes they were intended. They expected at the opening of the ſeſſion, after their congratulatory addreſſes were paſt, to have many demands for ſecuring the vaſt conqueſts which the King had made; but they were much ſurpriſed, when they found none made: the Lord High Treaſurer, informed them by the King's order, that the eſtabliſhment in France, would fully ſupport itſelf, and pay off all the arrears of the army; this was moſt agreeable news to all who feared the immenſe expence of keeping that kingdom: only forty thouſand men were voted therefore, as the ſtanding troops of Great-Britain; and ten thouſand in Ireland; thirty thouſand ſeamen were demanded, and agreed to without oppoſition; and five thouſand in Ireland.

The

The other ſervices were all ſupplyed with eaſe, chearfulneſs and alacrity.

But there was one circumſtance which pleaſed the King in this, as in ſome other ſeſſions---its meeting at Stanley; where he had ſummoned them. He there found himſelf in the midſt of his own creation, and was never ſo well pleaſed, as when he was engaged in raiſing noble piles of architecture; in converſing with men of genius, and planning future eſtabliſhments in favour of the arts and ſciences. Had the other Princes of Europe been poſſeſſed of ſuch a philoſophic diſpoſition, George would never have attacked his neighbours; he was far more pleaſed to be at the head of an academy at Stanley, than of a victorious army, conquering a great kingdom.

Four years were now * elapſed ſince George had been able to attend his buildings at this noble city with that care and over-ſight which he deſired. His reſidence there was but by ſnatches; he now and then caught a month flying, but the city was much enlarged in his abſence. He had entruſted the management of the buildings to Gilbert; but every one who built houſes, were left at liberty in every point but the front; the ſide of every ſtreet formed a regular one, and fancy itſelf could not form an idea of any thing more truly magnificent than all the ſtreets of Stanley: they exhibited all that was great and elegant, with the utmoſt variety, that genius could invent; and as this ſuperb city was evidently become the metropolis of the three, or rather four king-

* 1921.

doms,

doms, the ſtreets increaſed prodigiouſly: moſt of the nobility and gentry ſpent their winters at Stanley; the ſeat of every thing that could charm the wiſe, the rich, and the luxurious. London was already degenerated into a mere trading capital; and the King was every day planning the removal of thoſe offices, which it was in his power to tranſport to his favourite city.

His Majeſty ordered Comins, the architect, to draw the plan of an edifice deſigned for the Chancery: that ingenious architect brought him the ſketch of the building as it now remains; but it was not equal to ſome other works at Stanley, nor indeed to ſeveral churches of Comins's raiſing, in which he was peculiarly excellent.---Yet the Chancery is a very noble building, and does honour to its author. It contains immenſe apartments for the ſeveral courts of law.

law. But the grand deſign which drew the attention of the whole kingdom; was, the cathedral of St. John, which was raiſing by the great Gilbert;---that great man, whoſe invention perhaps was never exceeded, was indebted to nothing but his imagination for the deſign of that aſtoniſhing edifice: the architecture, grandeur, and extent, far exceed St. Peter's at Rome; and is certainly one of the greateſt monuments of George's magnificence, and even a wonder of the world. In the year 1921, Stanley, beſides this ſuperb cathedral, containing forty-three pariſh churches, many of them famous over the whole world for their architecture and magnificence; and was four miles in length, and near as much in breadth.

Among thoſe glorious eſtabliſhments which reflect ſo bright a luſtre on the reign of this great King; one of the

moſt diſtinguiſhed was the academy of polite learning. It was certainly very wonderful, that all the kingdoms in Europe, ſhould have their academies near four centuries before Great-Britain, but George ſupplyed the want of every thing that reflected an honour on his country. This noble inſtitution, conſiſted of a preſident, but the number of members was not limited; the former had two thouſand pounds a year, and the latter three hundred each; the firſt creation was of twenty-three members: and perhaps no period of time can diſplay a brighter union of geniuſes. The moſt diſtinguiſhed were, How, whoſe eſſays, letters, diſcourſes, and poetical pieces, g ine him ſuch a great reputation, both for his learning and genius; he was the preſident. Reynolds, whoſe tragedies are ſo famous.--- Young, the comic writer ---Price, the author of our Britiſh epic. --- Minors, Wilſon,

Wilſon, and Philipſon, all wrote both admirable tragedies and comedies,--- Walpole, whoſe ſketches on many ſubjects are ſo elegant and pleaſing—— Crouſe, Charlton, and Earle, in hiſtory: Charlton's Hiſtory of Britain was perhaps never exceeded.---But it would be tedious to name all their celebrated works, which are now in every body's hands. Never was any inſtitution better calculated for refining the Engliſh language, or for promoting literature in all its branches. The prizes which were every year given for the beſt tragedies, comedies, and eſſays, on variety of ſubjects, at the ſame time that they raiſed a ſpirit of emulation, were a means of enriching the votaries of genius.

George was ſolely bent on rendering the city of Stanley, the ſeat of every thing that was either uſeful or elegant: the Duke of Suffolk, his favourite Mi-

niſter, hinted to him one day in converſation, the foundation of a univerſity. The King conſidered of the ſcheme, and liking a plan that would adorn the city with ſo many noble buildings as the colleges; determined at laſt to put it in execution. The academy of architecture furniſhed plans, and the King gave each member a noble opportunity of rivalling each other. The author of each plan that was approved, was permitted by the King to be the architect. Nothing could excel the magnificent eſtabliſhments which were made in favour of this new univerſity: the profeſſors, maſters, &c. were all appointed with the utmoſt conſideration; none but men of unblemiſhed morals, and great learning, were advanced to any poſts in it. Scholars, not only from all parts of the King's dominions, but from all Europe, flocked to be admitted in the univerſity of Stanley, which had many advantages, that could

could be enjoyed by no other: what ſtill increaſed this ardour, was its cheapneſs, the bounty of the King, made it one of the cheapeſt ſeminaries for the education of youth, in the world.---No plan could have ornamented Stanley with a greater number of noble edifices: all the colleges, but particularly St. George's, are admirable, and perhaps the world cannot boaſt ſuch a number of buildings with ſo few faults. St. John's is the worſt; but St. George's, of which Gilbert was the architect, is inferior to no edifice of its kind in the world.

The Arſenal was the work of Salviola; and is undoubtedly the moſt ſtupendous building of that nature in Europe: the plainneſs of the front is admirable: and the ſituation, making one ſide of that noble ſquare *, was choſe with great

* Military.

judgement. It was kept conſtantly filled with artillery, and all ſorts of ammunition, to an immenſe amount: another front was compoſed of the War Office; a third of the Admiralty; and the fourth of the Barracks; all buildings that would challenge the world for rivals, and which together formed the moſt perfect and beautiful ſquare in Europe.

But while theſe celebrated piles of magnificence were raiſing; the King was employing ſome part of his time in laying out the gardens of his palace; he neglected any ſuch additions for ſome years, the woods which almoſt ſurrounded him were of themſelves ſo beautiful: but at laſt he formed the ſcheme of ſketching gardens equal to his palace: he drew ſeveral plans himſelf; theſe amuſements and employments were worthy ſuch a Monarch as George, and no man could ſucceed in them better: behind

hind the palace, the vaſt woods of oak and beech, almoſt joined the building. The King laid out a graſs lawn, to the back front, half a mile long, and a quarter broad, and round it to a conſiderable diſtance, made it beautifully picturesque: the appearance of art was entirely baniſhed; nature was never forced, but aſſiſted: he dug an immenſe piece of water, of one hundred acres, and raiſed a mountain by it; which is certainly one of the moſt beautiful ſpots in the world: by means of a prodigious quantity of maſonry, he formed many precipices, which in ſome places almoſt hung over the water, theſe were covered with mould to a great depth, and the whole hill preſented the view of one beautiful hanging wood of beech, here and there adorned with a little temple, or ſpire, peeping juſt above the trees; which made the whole moſt beautifully romantic: from off the

hill, was ſeen at ſome diſtance, a noble proſpect, and you looked down on the lake, ſurrounded with woods and lawns. ---Nothing unnatural was ſeen throughout the whole garden: no ſtudied magnificence: very few fountains, but many caſcades, which tumbling down artificial rocks, loſt themſelves in meandering currents, through the embrowning ſhades. In this beautiful garden, there was ſcarcely one ſtrait walk, except the grand lawn above-mentioned: every thing was irregular and natural. In many places ſheep, and other cattle were feeding; and as many foreign birds, and harmleſs beaſts, as poſſible were procured to run about the woods, which were full of hares, rabbits, and pheaſants. In ſhort this garden, which may be conſidered as a work of eminent genius, was formed on the mere plan of guiding nature: the graſs was almoſt every where kept in beautiful order;

order; but the woods had no other improvement, than intermixing the moſt beautiful flowering ſhrubs irregularly among the trees; and inſtead of letting the ſurface be generally flat; hills, and a thouſand imperceptible variations were made, to render it more pleaſing: the water naturally ran in one channel, but the King threw it into many, and it fell down a variety of caſcades; but all without any appearance of art. Never was any thing on the whole more beautiful, or more truly pictureſque; theſe gardens, which were about five miles in circuit, may be conſidered as the fineſt in the world, and far beyond thoſe celebrated ones of Verſailles, of which hiſtorians ſpeak ſo highly.——It may perhaps be thought below the dignity of hiſtory, to give any account of theſe things; but the true uſe of hiſtory is to deſcribe mankind; and the hero of this work, no where appears to

greater advantage, than in his amuſements at Stanley; for all the glorious works which there are the wonder of the world, were but the diverſion of George, and his relaxation from more neceſſary concerns. What a Monarch! who in his very pleaſures, far exceeded the generality of Princes in their moſt diſtinguiſhed actions.

But it was at the ſame time highly to this great King's honour, that his amuſements did not encroach on his more important occupations. His buildings, and inſtitutions at Stanley, were greatly to the credit of the nation; but they did not tend to diffuſe happineſs among all his ſubjects; George was not only magnificent but humane; and his attention to thoſe eſtabliſhments, that only advanced the national glory, did not call him off from ſuch as were dictated merely by his benevolence and humanity:

nity: the unhappy, found in him their beſt comforter; the poor and needy, their ſureſt ſupport: at the time that he was raiſing palaces, and founding academies, hoſpitals of all kinds were reared with liberality and magnificence throughout the kingdom: the ſcheme and execution of the county hoſpitals were the effects of his goodneſs: nay, the very plan was his own thought: whatever county would raiſe half the neceſſary ſum for any of thoſe ſeminaries of the poor or miſerable; the King granted the other half: happy nation! to have ſuch amiable qualities mixt with the more dazzling brightneſs of their Monarch's mind! twenty foundling hoſpitals were erected at his ſole expence, in different parts of Great-Britain and Ireland: the hint of theſe uſeful foundations, was taken from one that was eſtabliſhed for a few years in the reign of George II. but it came to nothing,

for want of proper care: however, thoſe raiſed by the King, proved to be, and now continue, moſt excellent eſtabliſhments. Before the year 1925, his Majeſty had built, and either wholely, or in part, endowed thirty-five hoſpitals.

Nothing was omitted by George, that added to the ſtrength and ſecurity of his kingdom; which he conſidered equally with its ornament: vaſt works were raiſed at all the ſea-port towns in Great-Britain and Ireland, to defend the coaſt from all inſult. Docks for building ſhips were made at every place where there was a ſufficient depth of water: new men of war were continually building in them; and old ones repairing; ſo that he was at all times prepared to wage war on any ſudden emergency: vaſt arſenals and magazines were erected at all the moſt diſtinguiſhed harbours; Plymouth, Milford, Chatham, Hull, Edinburgh,

Edinburgh, and Cork, might ſeparately be conſidered as real wonders of ſtrength and greatneſs: each of them were capable of fitting out a greater fleet than any ſingle kingdom in the world: beſides theſe, there were many ports of leſs conſequence, for the building and rendezvous of ſmall men of war and frigates: the coaſts of the two iſlands were almoſt entirely ſurrounded with works, which were at once their ornament and defence.

Rivers that formerly were almoſt uſeleſs, now were navigated by large barges, which increaſed the trade of innumerable towns, and raiſed in many places, new ones: canals were cut which joined rivers, and formed a communication from one part of the kingdom to the other: the ſpirit of trade attended theſe prodigious works: villages grew into towns, and towns became cities. An

infinite number of manufactures flouriſhed all over the kingdom; none were ſo inconſiderable, as not to enjoy the King's patronage, who examined into the minuteſt branches, and by the vaſt, and penetrating capacity of his genius, attained a full comprehenſion of moſt arts; he underſtood their intereſts, and knew when and how to promote them: by theſe means, he raiſed and ſupported them at a ſmall expence; and did as much real ſervice to trade with one hundred thouſand pounds, as many Princes, and even great ones, have performed with treble the ſum.

But the immenſe region of country which the Engliſh poſſeſſed in North America, was what moſt extended and forwarded the Britiſh manufactures; the King was there Sovereign of a tract of much greater extent than all Europe: he conſtitution of the ſeveral diviſions of

of that vaſt monarchy, was admirably deſigned to keep the whole in continual dependance on the mother country: there were eleven millions of ſouls in the Britiſh American dominions in the year 1920: they were in poſſeſſion of, perhaps the fineſt country in the world, and yet had never made the leaſt attempt to ſhake off the authority of Great-Britain: indeed, the multiplicity of governments which prevailed over the whole country —— the various conſtitutions of them, rendered the execution of ſuch a ſcheme abſolutely impoſſible. This wide extended region which increaſed its people ſo ſurpriſingly faſt, was far from being forgot by the King; many noble harbours were ſurrounded with towns, and made naval magazines; a prodigious number of ſhips were built by order, from Great-Britain; and the royal navy itſelf boaſted

ed many very fine ſhips that were built in America.

In a word, this was the Auguſtan age of Great-Britain: the fictitious times which received their being only from the imagination of poets, were realized in this happy country: it ſeldom or never happened, that the period in which military glory is carryed to its greateſt height, is alſo the age of happineſs and plenty; but this was the caſe in the reign of George VI. Britain, at this golden æra was at once glorious and happy.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

George VI. *viſits France.---Government in France.---New laws.---Buildings.---Encouragement of arts and ſciences.---George gives both freedom and happineſs to France.*

A Truly benevolent diſpoſition, knows no bounds to the deſire of diffuſing happineſs: George VI. longed to ſee France in poſſeſſion of that eaſe and plenty, which were now the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtics of Great-Britain. The Duke of Devonſhire it is true, had governed in that kingdom with abilities and integrity, but it was not in his power to execute the deſigns of the King, nor was his genius adapted to the buſineſs: his Majeſty determined therefore to make a trip thither; and to increaſe the ſplendour of his court, he took with him great part of the nobility of

of the kingdom. On his arrival at Paris, he fixed his reſidence at the Louvre, but was diſappointed in finding that very few of the firſt nobility of France waited on him: his court was crouded with Frenchmen, but not men of great importance: George could not condemn this mark of their affection for their former ſovereign; but like a wiſe and benevolent Prince, reſolved to conquer their diſaffection by his clemency and the mildneſs of his government.

The Kings of France had been abſolute Monarchs for many centuries: the parliament of Paris had formerly raiſed commotions in the kingdom, by their obſtinacy in refuſing to regiſter the royal edicts; but this appearance of liberty was now entirely at an end: George, determined to make the French love him; and he knew that would be impoſſible, if he did not give them more happineſs

happineſs than his predeceſſors; and make them no longer regret the loſs of their former Kings. His management in France was certainly admirable: at the ſame time that he ſecured himſelf againſt all inſurrections, he gratified the conquered people. He raiſed many French regiments; he promoted a multitude of French officers in Engliſh and German corps; he made a mixture of the two nations, in almoſt every thing, except religion; but he never ſhocked the people with any innovations in that tender point: he had indeed, long laid the plan of rooting ſuperſtition and enthuſiaſm out of the kingdom, but never thought of changing the eſtabliſhed religion. By an edict, which was regiſtered in parliament, he gave all his French ſubjects the privilege of both reading and publiſhing any books, with the ſame limitations as in England: this edict contained the ſubſtance of the Engliſh laws

laws on that head, and was declared irrevocable.——It is difficult to conceive the effect which this change had at Paris. A ſullen ſilence had reigned throughout the kingdom; but almoſt at once, it was ſucceeded by a boundleſs torrent of flattery and invective: the King looked on with calmneſs, and was highly ſatisfied at the pleaſure the whole nation experienced in this new liberty: a multitude of indirect libels on him were printed; but many ingenious men defended George, and gave him exceſſive praiſe, for this inſtance of his clemency and philoſophic diſpoſition: the lower people were ſhocked at the great number of books that ſwarmed from the preſs, which ridiculed and ſubverted the Roman catholic religion; but the ſenſible part of the nation rejoiced to find that no ſubject was ſo ſacred as to bar common ſenſe from the conſideration of it: every man publiſhed

liſhed his ſentiments with the utmoſt freedom on all ſubjects. The King, who had a ſublime notion of morals and religion, ordered a vaſt number of the beſt Engliſh books to be tranſlated into French, and printed at the Louvre: theſe ſpread with the other publications over all France, opened the eyes of the more ſenſible, and even awakened ſome of the ignorant, to a ſenſe of the abſurdities of popery: the Abbé de Manſiere, particularly, by his Majeſty's directions, compoſed a moſt elaborate diſſertation to prove, that monaſteries, and nunneries, were pernicious to the ſtate: the King ſeemed an enemy to no part of religion, but that which was prejudicial to the civil ſtate of the kingdom.

This noble freedom, which the French had ſo long loſt, gave riſe to a thouſand uſeful and excellent treatiſes, both in morals and politics: all other arts were alſo

alſo benefited by it: but it was not in this article alone that George ſhowed his deſire of making the conquered nation happy: by an edict, which will be immortal, he introduced the laws of England into France, with no changes, but ſuch as reſpected religion, and his own authority: he even gave up every prerogative which he did not poſſeſs in England, except the raiſing of money: parting with that would have been dangerous, ſo ſoon after his poſſeſſion. As the French nation had always preſerved a notion of liberty, and had never fallen abſolutely into ſlavery, the effect of theſe changes was ſurpriſing; they ſeemed to enjoy them with particular exultation; as they came from the hand of their conqueror; happy for France, that it was conquered by ſuch a patriot King!

The only ſet of men who at firſt appeared diſcontented with theſe changes, was

was the nobility; they were no longer the abſolute Lords on their own eſtates they had heretofore been: the meaneſt peaſant was now free, and could not ſuffer but by a judgement of his Peers: but, in return for the loſs of that power which it was diſhonourable to uſe, they had many noble privileges confirmed to them, unknown to their anceſtors: they were no longer the ſlaves of their Monarch, and the firſt to bear his fury; the King himſelf had no more authority over them, than over the loweſt mechanic. How unuſual was it in France, to ſee uncorrupt judges going the circuits of the provinces, who enjoyed their ſalaries fixed for life, and had no inducement to favour either ſide!

During this reſidence in France, ſo happy for that kingdom, the King built a very noble palace at Fontainebleau, and another on the banks of the Rhone; he alſo repaired the Louvre, and many other

other public buildings; and neglected nothing that could add to the ornament of the kingdom: the fortifications of the frontier towns, from the north of Holland, to the Mediterranean, which had in many provinces fallen into decay, were repaired, and even augmented: the royal ports were filled with workmen of all ſorts: great numbers of ſhips, from men of war to merchantmen, were built: his Majeſty's navy was continually augmenting; and as the two nations now poſſeſſed an immenſe trade, there was no danger of ever finding a ſcarcity of ſailors.

The Monarch, who in England had been ſo great and magnificent a protector of the arts and ſciences, acted worthy of himſelf in France. The French nation had enjoyed more eſtabliſhments in favour of literature, ſuch as academies, than Great-Britain, but they

they were in general only honourary: men of the greateſt genius were often members of many academies, but almoſt ſtarving for want: George therefore found no want of freſh eſtabliſhments, but only the fixing certain ſalaries on the ſeats of thoſe already in being. This he did with a liberality unknown in France, and greatly to his honour: few conquerours were ever celebrated for ſuch excellencies as this great Monarch; the panegyrics on him, which were numerous and juſt, did not turn on his victories, but his philoſophic diſpoſition, and his *civil* virtues.

Prejudice and partiality, which ſo often throw a veil over the real characters of princes, can find few faults with this great king's adminiſtration. His conduct, eſpecially in France, has been blamed by many politicians, but no philoſophers. In fact, George ought rather

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to be conſidered as a philoſophical king, than a conſummate politician: he had too many virtues to ſhine greatly in the latter character: yet thoſe men, who have blamed ſo much the political conduct of the king, in giving liberty to a great kingdom, ſpeak merely as politicians: but George's memory will out-laſt every reflexion of this nature, and virtue will triumph in ſpite of the moſt ſcandalous miſrepreſentation: In ſome inſtances, his conduct was certainly faulty, but he never committed an error, which did not proceed from a good motive. However, the ſtrongeſt proof, the excellence of all his opinions, is the univerſal praiſe that is beſtowed on his memory by all foreign hiſtorians. His name was as dear to France as it was to Great-Britain. Fortunate nations to poſſeſs a king formed by nature to make the world he governed happy!

FINIS.